

FREE

# Kent on Sunday

[www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk) October 15, 2017

North & West edition No 786

## POLITICS

### Pay more, get less as KCC hit out

Council tax set to rise, but frontline  
services look set to take a hit

## TERRORISM

### 'White Widow' is killed in drone strike

Medway housewife who joined Isis  
believed dead in Syria

## ENVIRONMENT

### Wave of plastic along our coastline

Concerns rise over the impact it  
will have on us all

## WEATHER

# Great Storm: 30 years on

Looking back at the devastation  
which redefined county's landscape



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# Kent on Sunday

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## How our strength saw us refuse to be battered

NO one who lived through the Great Storm of 1987 and its aftermath will forget it.

Rather annoyingly I slept through the whole thing. But then when you're in your teens you enter a depth of sleep which - and this stands as proof - even hurricane force winds cannot raise you from.

All I knew as I woke up was that I was getting a day off school.

Something of a result, I can tell you.

I remember walking to the local park the following morning with my parents to see the damage caused. Just along the road a tree had fallen into the roof of a house - it stood there almost apologetically exposing this poor family's home to the street.

Around the corner and a car had changed its appearance to sport the 'huge tree trunk directly on its roof' motif. As a youngster, it was like walking through the set of some low-budget Hollywood movie.

Editor **Chris Britcher**

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But it was the park which was most striking. Stood there, it was like witnessing some post nuclear landscape; every tree flattened.

This occurred exactly 30 years ago yet such was the impression it left, the ability to recall the sights and sounds for so many is relatively easy. Inside, we have plenty of comments from our readers doing just that. It makes for fascinating reading.

If you weren't living here at the time, do not underestimate the impact it had on our landscape.

Millions of trees fell; vistas forever altered. But it is from that which

we can perhaps take most heart. Because today where great trees tumbled, now others stand in their place. Damaged homes and vehicles were repaired. Businesses rebuilt. Communities united.

We have always been resilient as a county; able to cope with huge challenges. Let's just make sure we don't forget it.



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## Schools asked to provide 190 temporary places

By Tom Pyman

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SCHOOLS in Tunbridge Wells are being asked to open their doors to dozens more children on a temporary basis next year to help meet a shortage of available places in the town.

Failure to provide a new all-ability secondary school has left education chiefs sweating ahead of next September when they estimate there is a need for 190 additional Year 7 places.

To combat the crisis, Kent County Council proposes 60 temporary places be provided at each of Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, St Gregory's Catholic School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School For Boys, as well as a further 10 at The Skinners' School.

Bennett Memorial this week launched a consultation into proposals to permanently expand the school, and executive headteacher, Ian Bauckham, who is also CEO of the Tenax Schools Trust, which runs a number of schools in the county, told KoS he was confident the proposed expansion would not



**CRISIS:** KCC warns there will not be enough Year 7 places to meet demand in Tunbridge Wells next year

adversely affect the quality of education received.

"Larger schools are more successful and can offer wider curriculums," he said.

"Some people might say a big school feels a bit scary but actually we've expanded on an ad-hoc basis and from the inside it doesn't feel any different.

"I don't believe it would change the way the school feels. Bigger schools are also cheaper to run, so

it's more economical.

"Where they would go is still to be worked out, but temporary classrooms these days are top quality, they're properly built, warm, spacious and full of IT, they're not the decrepit old huts I grew up with."

Mr Bauckham also insisted additional teachers would be recruited to cope with the potential influx, so as not to increase the strain on existing staff.

"Recruiting teachers is always challenging, but most appointments come from people we have trained ourselves as we have a guarantee of quality," he said.

"We have nearly 30 trainee teachers in our group of schools so if it needs to expand, we can do it."

The financial implications of the proposed expansions will be set out within a further report to the KCC committee at a meeting next month.

## Musical chairs as NHS chief in Dartford shifts east on secondment

SUSAN Acott has been named interim chief executive of the East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust - heading up the organisation that runs east Kent hospitals on secondment from another the of the county's trusts.

Currently the chief executive of the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, she will replace, temporarily at least, the post vacated by Matthew Kershaw who quit last month.

East Kent Hospitals runs the Kent & Canterbury, William Harvey and QEQM hospitals, plus sites in Folkestone and Dover.

She said: "I'm delighted. I look forward to working with staff, patients and the communities the trust serves to further progress the trust's work to provide excellent hospital services for local people and further strengthen the close working between the NHS organisations in Kent."

She has worked at the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust for the

last eight years - which runs the Darent Valley Hospital in Dartford.

She has previously held senior positions in the NHS in Manchester, Merseyside, York and London and is rated as one of the Health Service Journal's top 50 chief executives.

Her expertise will certainly be needed. East Kent has faced a barrage of criticism over its handling of its sites - in particular the Kent & Canterbury Hospital and the switching of some treatments.

She will assume the role of CEO until March 31, 2018, during which time the trust will "conduct a robust recruitment and selection process for the permanent role". Gerard Sammon, Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust's director of strategy and planning, will become the interim chief executive at Dartford in her absence.

She will take over the role on October 16 and return to the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust at the end of her secondment.

## Teenager in court charged with murder of 17-year-old

A GILLINGHAM teenager has appeared in court after being charged with the murder of 17-year-old Kyle Yule.

Victor Maibvisira, 19, of St Johns Road, was charged with one count of murder and one count of affray after he was arrested by officers on Tuesday in Woolwich, London.

Officers launched a murder enquiry after police were called to

East Street, Gillingham, at 8.10pm on October 6 where Kyle, described by his mother as a "beautiful" son, was fatally injured.

A number of people were reported to be causing criminal damage to a silver Renault Clio shortly before Kyle was stabbed and later died in hospital.

Police have arrested a number of people in relation to the crime.

## School site set to be sold to developers for £1.8million

SITE of the Steiner School in Chartham is to be sold at auction.

The school confirmed it will close at the end of this year due to financial issues, bringing to an end 41 years of teaching at the site.

Now it will be sold with a guide price of between £1.5-1.8million.

Set in more than four acres the school is being sold on the instructions of the trustees.

The site includes a theatre, basketball court, woodwork building, classroom blocks, main house and the oast house.

Auctioneer Kevin Gilbert said: "This is a unique opportunity and a large site. The site is sure to interest developers and investors and we anticipate a high level of interest."

It goes up for sale on October 30 with Clive Emson in Detling.



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## Vote now for your favourite tourism business

VOTING is underway for the 22 tourism businesses that have made it through to the final public vote in the new Kent Tourism Awards.

Launched in August to help motivate tourism businesses, you have until October 20 to vote in seven different categories including tourism pub of the year, the ultimate tourist experience and the best large and

small visitor attraction.

To vote, visit the website of Kent tourism champions Visit Kent at [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk).

Businesses with the most votes will be crowned at a gala ceremony on November 24. Everyone who votes will be entered into a prize draw with the winner selected at random on October 23.



**RIP:** Alexander Politowicz

## Tributes paid after biker is killed in crash

THE family of a motorcyclist killed in a crash in Doddington on Wednesday have paid tribute to him, describing him as "a generous young man".

Alexander Politowicz, 32, known to friends as 'Polly', was killed when his bike was hit by a car on Chequers Hill just before 7.20am on October 11.

In a tribute, his family said: "He was a joker and a generous young man who would do anything for anyone. His parents Sally and Martin describe him as devoted to his godchildren, Charlie and Amelia and he will be missed by all that knew him."

"He worked hard as a manufacturing engineer team leader locally."

"Polly was a keen sportsman as he grew up, swimming and running for Kent as well as playing rugby for Sittingbourne before injury prevented him from playing but was still a keen supporter of the club and would frequently be found spectating."

"He grew up as a strong young man, often seen flexing his muscles or as he called them, 'the guns'. He attended Bordon Grammar School before going to the University of Huddersfield."

Anyone who witnessed the accident between the black motorcycle and a blue Audi Q5 car should contact police on 01622 798538 quoting ref: 11-189.

## Dreamland on road to recovery as it pulls itself out of financial quagmire

**By Chris Britcher**

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MARGATE's Dreamland is coming out of administration after a successful summer saw more than half a million people visit the reimagined theme park.

There were fears over its survival after the park ran up debts of several million pounds and was unable to pay creditors when it was put into the hands of administrators in August 2016.

But prior to its summer opening this year, it invested £25m into re-vamping the park and putting a key focus on events in a bid to turn it into a year-round venue.

A key success story has been hosting major music events - including a show by Gorillaz which sold out within minutes of going on sale.

Now Sands Heritage Limited, operator of the park, says it will exit administration at the end of the month.

In its place will be what is known as a company voluntary arrange-



**POPULAR:** Dreamland

ment which received unanimous support from creditors.

That will put in place a payment plan with those the park owes money to over a certain period of time. However, it often also means credi-

tors accept less than they were owed as a consequence.

Steven Mitchell, interim CEO at Dreamland, said: "The successful exit from administration is the perfect end to a hugely successful summer for Dreamland Margate."

"Our team has worked hard to deliver massive improvements in the range and quality of the park's offering for half a million people but this is only the start. As we come out of administration, we can look forward with real confidence and excitement as we deliver more of the unique, colourful and unexpected experiences that our customers have come to know us for already this summer."

"We have very ambitious plans for 2018 and beyond, and to ensure we succeed, we are adding another 15 people to the team - adding to the positive effect we are having in the local economy."

"There is also a fantastic opportunity for a new CEO to join and continue to shape the strategy and lead the Dreamland team to deliver the best day out in the UK."

## Drilling begins at site of Thames crossing

PRELIMINARY work has begun on the site of the planned Lower Thames Crossing, east of Gravesend - much to the disappointment of campaigners.

Highways England engineers have started drilling some test bore holes in the land - six months after the route was identified as the £6 billion preferred route.

But Gravesend Rural county councillor Bryan Sweetland, who quit the Kent County Council cabinet after the authority backed the route, said it came as a surprise to him.

He explained: "I met with Highways England last month to discuss plans, but whenever we meet we're left in the dark."

"They don't seem to listen to our concerns, and right now they're not tell us anything either."

However, Highways England said they were "communicating regularly" with residents and that this week's work was to "test and analyse the land".

## Tighter restrictions on acid sales agreed

A PROPOSAL to challenge anyone looking under the age of 25 to provide ID as proof of age when buying corrosive substances has been approved by Medway Council.

Labour councillors put forward the motion amid mounting concerns about acid attacks which have been used across the country.

The home secretary confirmed earlier this week new laws are to be introduced to control the sale of such substances to under 18s. But the unitary authority has now declared it wants action taken now.

A similar scheme has recently been introduced in the London borough of Newham, where retailers have already agreed to operate Challenge 25 rules.

The motion reads: "This council notes the disturbing rise of violent crime across the country involving the use of corrosive substances and requests the cabinet and relevant council officers to encourage retailers across Medway to participate in a voluntary Challenge 25 system for the sale of these potentially dangerous products."

## Death smash victim was expecting child

A 24-year-old motorcyclist killed in a smash in Ramsgate last Friday night was set to have become a father in February, it has been revealed.

Brett Appleyard died after the crash in Stirling Way at around 8.25pm on October 6.

He hit a car at the junction with Conyngnam Close. Now his mother, Linda, has revealed he had been eagerly looking forward to the birth of his first child.

She said: "Brett will be terribly missed by everyone who knew him. He will always be my beautiful boy and the bestest big brother ever to his sister Casey. To his partner Lottie, who is mum to his unborn child, he was and still is her heart and her world."

"Brett was so very caring, loving and funny. He was pure energy. He loved to laugh and make others laugh too. He loved his family and friends very much and anything with an engine. He also loved fishing."

"He was so excited that he was becoming a dad in February and loved his baby so much that he was fit to burst."



# The 'White Widow' believed to have been killed by a drone

By Chris Britcher

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UNCONFIRMED reports suggest a housewife from Chatham who became one of Britain's most wanted Isis terrorists has been killed following a US drone strike.

It was widely reported on Thursday that Sally Jones - nicknamed the White Widow - was killed in a drone strike in June in Syria, close to the border with Iraq - but the details have only now been released.

While the UK government is refusing to comment on issues of national security, sources within the US military said they were "confident" she has been killed.

It is not known if her 12-year-old son, Jojo, who it is believed she had been using as a human shield against such aerial attacks, was also killed in the attack - but it is thought likely.

Jones, 50, was a former punk rocker who became an extremist after marrying Junaid Hussain. He was a computer hacker from Birmingham and a senior figure within Isis.

She fled to Syria in 2013 taking her young son with her. A second son, aged 20, is believed to have remained in the UK. Her husband was killed in 2015 in a similar drone strike in Raqqa, northern Syria.

Both are thought to have been monitored



**DEAD:** Sally Jones is believed to have been killed in June

by M16 since they left the UK and on a "kill list" of high value targets. She regularly used social media in an attempt to lure women and young girls to join Isis and had mocked former PM David Cameron on Twitter for his efforts to stop her. She also appeared brandishing a gun and speaking of her wish to behead Christians.

It is believed she was killed as she fled Raqqa as the former Isis stronghold came under heavy repeated bombing from US and allied forces.

According to reports, official confirmation would only have been possible if remains had been checked against a DNA database - something not possible without the use of special forces on the ground. It is understood that is operators of the drone had been aware of her young son being present when the attack took place, the weapons would not have been deployed. One of the reasons for the delay in announcing her probable death was amid fears her son had also been killed.

## Carter re-elected as Conservative leader

KENT County Council leader Paul Carter has been re-elected as leader of the Conservative group.

Leader since 2005, when he replaced the popular Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, he has never enjoyed the widespread popularity of his predecessor but at the last elections delivered one of the party's strongest results, as they won 67 of the 81 seats available.

## Pensioner dies after horror A20 smash

AN 82-year-old man has died this week following a smash on the A20 in Lenham last Sunday.

Police want to hear from any witnesses to the crash at 3.30pm on Ashford Road at the junction with Faversham Road when a silver Ford Ka crashed with a Audi A4.

The driver of the Ford Ka died on Monday.

## Pub under hammer

THE former John Wallis pub in Ashford - known to many as The Man of Kent - is to be sold at auction.

The town centre building has a freehold guide price of £250,000-plus and will be sold by property firm Clive Emson on October 30 in Detling.

It says it could continue as a pub "or have a variety of future uses if consents are obtained".

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# Stud farm owner fined over ignoring 'toxic' fire warning

A FARM owner has been told to pay more than £12,500 for ignoring complaints and a legal notice to stop igniting toxic bonfires on his land.

The 'dark smoke' fires were fuelled by household waste and tyres and prompted numerous complaints from neighbours.

Now William Cook Jr, of Oakview Stud Farm on Lombard Street in Horton Kirby, has been hit with a big fine and told if he does it again he could go to jail.

Cook has been ordered to pay £12,600 in fines and costs after the council first issued him with a warning in May 2016 and then a notice banning fires last November.

However, officers saw three further fires between December and April.

Cook pleaded guilty at Sevenoaks



Magistrates' Court to one charge of a dark smoke offence as well as three charges for breaching a CPN, and was fined £1,000 for each offence as well as being ordered to pay £8,500 in costs to the council

and a £100 victim surcharge.

The council has also been granted a criminal behaviour order against Cook which, if breached, could lead to imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

# 'Children will suffer' over school governor shortage

AN education charity says pupils will suffer as a result of a significant shortage in school governors across Kent.

The SGOSS Governors for Schools, a national education charity working in partnership with business, public sector organisations and local authorities to connect more governor volunteers with schools say there are vacancies at schools across the county.

It says north Kent (Dartford, Gravesham and Sevenoaks) has 150 vacancies; south Kent (Ashford, Shepway and Dover) has 145; east Kent (Canterbury, Swale and Thanet) has 113 and west Kent (Maidstone, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells) has 156.

SGOSS chief executive Louise Cooper said: "While many of

the headlines at the moment are around teacher shortages, the problem in recruiting governors is just as acute.

"Governors are critical in ensuring that schools are being managed efficiently and effectively so that they can deliver excellent education."

Governors hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, appoint the head teacher and work with senior leadership teams to ensure pupils receive an excellent education.

SGOSS, which recruits and trains prospective governors for free, says there are just too few volunteers coming forward and currently the charity has just 45 volunteers for the 550-plus vacancies throughout the region.

## Microwave thrown at car

A 29-year-old man has been arrested by police suspected of hurling a microwave into the windscreen of a parked car.

He was taken into custody on Wednesday on suspicion of causing damage to a total of five vehicles in the Lascelles Road area of Dover late last month.

## Cops' cyber conference

KENT Police staged a Cyber Awareness Conference in Maidstone on Tuesday to help SMEs understand online threats and spot the tactics used.

Held at the Kent Police College, the free event included a number of key note speakers addressing more than 80 people.

## BHF urge CPR training

SOME 87 per cent of people surveyed in the south east would be reluctant to perform CPR on cardiac arrest victims, according to latest statistics from the British Heart Foundation.

It said 49 per cent cited fear of causing more harm than good and 38 per cent lacking the skills.

## Business cash boost

THE Eastern Academic Research Consortium (Eastern ARC) – comprising the universities of Kent, Essex and East Anglia – has been awarded £4.7m by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to support business innovation in Kent, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk.

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# 11-plus blunder at council

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

MEDWAY Council has been forced to apologise after children waiting to find out if they had passed their 11-plus did not find out the results until hours after they were originally promised.

The Medway Test - which demonstrates if a child will be able to apply for a grammar school - was sat at the start of term last month.

Results were due to be emailed to parents at 4pm on Monday.

But a technical problem at the authority meant many did not receive their results until some six hours later.

A spokesman for the Tory-run Medway Council said: "We were really sorry if you were waiting for your email with the test results. All emails were sent by 6pm.

"We know some results had been received but appreciate the anxiety and disappointment of children having to wait. We are investigating."

Vince Maple, Medway Labour leader, said he was furious at yet another problem. He said: "Once again the delivery of a crucial council service has been delayed by a technical glitch.

"Our Tory cabinet recently discussed a council plan which lists among its priorities 'finding the best



**BLOW:** Parents and Year 6 pupils were left waiting for hours after a technical glitch in Medway

digital innovation and using it to meet residents' needs and making it 'quicker and easier for customers to access our services online'.

"On the strength of yet another fundamental IT failure we appear to be further from this goal than ever.

"Medway families deserve an answer which addresses this latest mishap."

It is the second year in a row which has seen problems with the publication of results.

Last year, Medway Council mailed out results which, literally, failed to add up.

Hundreds found the scores of each component of the exam failed to add up to the final mark - although the final decision on all students was ruled

correct.

Pupils who sat the Kent Test received their results from Kent County Council on Thursday.

Securing the necessary score to 'pass' the test does not guarantee a place in a grammar school, but does allow parents to apply for a place in one of the county's selective schools should they so desire.

## ATM crook gets jail term

A THIEF who spray-painted a CCTV camera black as he stole more than £16,000 from a cash machine has been jailed.

Madalin-Petru Costea, 23, travelled from his Wembley home to The Parade in Meopham in June this year to carry out the raid.

After blocking the CCTV, he returned the following night and broke into the machine. However, blood on its broken screen was linked to Costea and he was arrested.

He admitted theft and was jailed for two years at Maidstone Crown Court.

## Hoverboards are destroyed

SOME 100 hoverboards, seized at the Port of Dover, are to be destroyed after trading standards officers declared them dangerous.

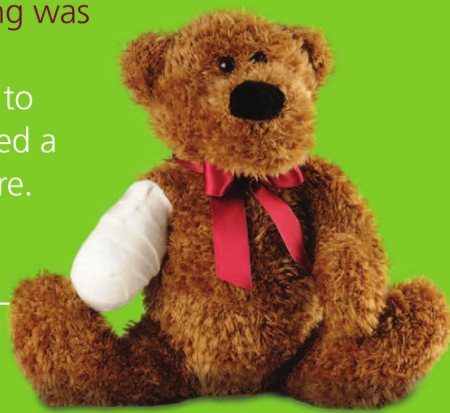
Canterbury magistrates made the order after the products were seized by UK Border Force in December. They failed to meet strict safety guidelines and were destined for Birmingham. The manufacturer was also ordered to pay costs of just over £2,000.

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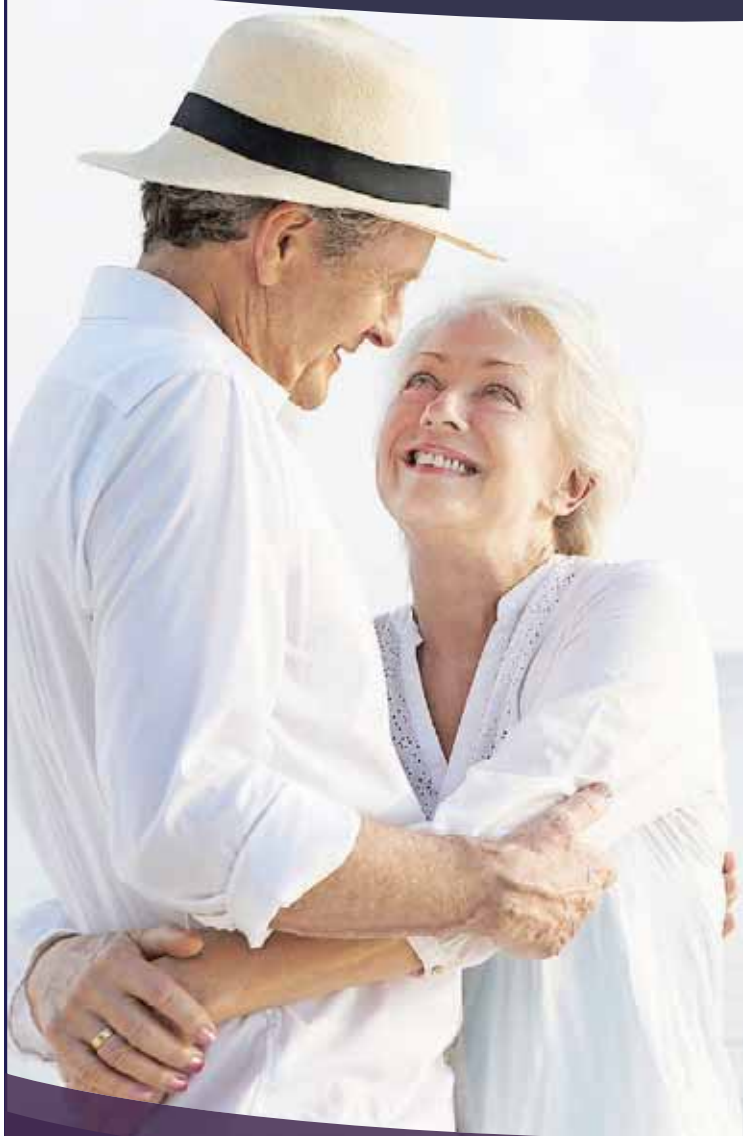
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# KCC told to find £104m savings

Having trimmed £600m already off its expenditure bill, now the county council is praying for some help in next month's budget from chancellor Philip Hammond as it faces the threat of more job cuts

By Tom Pyman

Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

**T**AXPAYERS across the county are likely to face yet another increase on their bills next year as Kent County Council continues to grapple with funding pressures.

Town hall chiefs admitted this week a council tax hike of around four per cent - meaning an increase of around £40 for the average household - is almost certain, as money from Whitehall dries up year-on-year.

The local authority this week began a six-week consultation to engage with the public over the need to find millions of pounds worth of savings.

KCC leader Paul Carter warned last month that "a day of reckoning" was imminent, with frontline services potentially at risk if central government failed to provide some sort of additional resources for the council.

Speaking to KoS ahead of the consultation launch this week, cabinet member for finance, John Simmonds, explained the nature of the challenges but declined to reveal the areas that could be at most risk - or indeed the number of jobs facing the axe - when the budget is finally rubber-stamped next February.

"There are hints something may happen for local authorities in the chancellor's November budget so there is a reluctance to pursue some avenues if indeed we do get some more money," he said.

"So it's a delicate balancing act, but if there is nothing from government we may have to look at services.

"We are losing another £30m in revenue support grants from the government and inflation is at three per cent - for every one per cent of inflation, that is a cost of around £8m for us.

"In total we've really got to find £104m of savings."

Some of those are set to be made through what Cllr Simmonds describes as "transformation programmes and improved contract management".

The council was boosted earlier this year by a £26m cash injection from the government to help fund the growing social care crisis, though leader Paul Carter said it wasn't enough to meet the needs of a growing elderly population across the council.

In an additional bid to ease pressure, the government's communities secretary, Sajid Javid, announced before Christmas last year that town halls could increase the 'social care precept' on council tax bills from two per cent to three per cent.

This is on top of the general maximum council tax rise of 1.99 per cent.

When setting the most recent budget eight months ago, KCC declined to take that particular option and imposed a total rise of 3.99 per cent rather than the top bracket 4.99 per cent, which was implemented at Medway



**PRESSURE:** County Hall chiefs say it is getting "blummin' difficult" to balance the books following latest round of savings imposed by central government

Council - a town hall completely independent from KCC.

Cllr Simmonds told us it was "unlikely" the council would plump for the full 4.99 per cent rise this time around but admitted it was a possibility.

"It's a weapon we have in our back pocket if we want," he said.

The Conservative councillor estimated a rise in council tax would swell the coffers by north of £25m but there would still be substantial savings to be made.

"You have to look at the context, we've already made £600m of savings and it's getting blummin' difficult," he said.

"If government were as efficient as we were, they'd have made more savings."

Some may argue, however, that after six or seven years of comments

about the state of finances, without the type of collapse in services that council chiefs have warned about in the past, central government may feel town halls are crying wolf, and be reluctant to provide additional funding in the coming weeks and months.

"They did think that at first, and we had a problem convincing our own MPs because they were briefed by [former chancellor] George Osborne that we had huge reserves and it's not true," Cllr Simmonds added.

"The reserves we have are to do with replacing machinery and computer systems, or if you get a sudden spate of flooding or, God forbid, a terrorist incident. We are really not flush with reserves at all."

Critics however would point out that members at County Hall voted for a pay rise of some 15 per cent earlier this summer, which perhaps

would suggest money is not quite as tight as the warnings suggest.

Labour MP for Canterbury, Rosie Duffield, described KCC leaders as "greedy" and last week urged the city council in her constituency not to follow suit - though leader Simon Cook threw cold water on her comments, insisting councillors had in fact agreed allowances below what was recommended.

With the rise for KCC members set to add costs of around £245,000, one could argue it does not make a huge splash in the context of a multi-million-pound budget, but Cllr Simmonds said he accepted people would remain unhappy over the decision.

"We had been losing some young members on the allowances we were getting - they just couldn't afford to do it," he said.

"You could argue the timing was

not perfect and I fully understand the criticism but it's been dormant since 2008/09.

"We would like to get more balanced representation. There a lot of grey-haired, over 60s, and it's nice to have them because they provide experience, but there are dangers that you can lose contact with what the taxpayers want if you don't have that balance."

Cllr Carter added: "The difficult decisions we make in next year's budget will affect everyone in Kent.

"That's why it is important that as many residents as possible take part in this year's consultation."

Details of the consultation and on how to take part can be found at: [www.kent.gov.uk/budget](http://www.kent.gov.uk/budget)

Another round of consultation will be held in the new year using feedback from this period of engagement.

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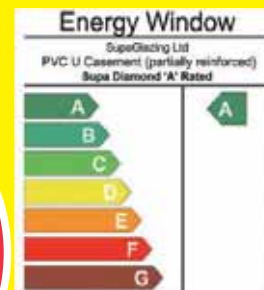
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**DUMPED:** The scale of the problem shows no signs of slowing and Kent is not immune

# Plastic peril on our coastline as rubbish piles up

From shellfish to the food chain, it seems we cannot escape the global menace of old plastic

**By Chris Murphy**  
[editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk)

**L**AST month, a survey of tap water quality produced some disturbing findings with 72 per cent of samples taken in Europe - including the UK - revealing it was contaminated with plastic particles.

In the US, this figure ballooned to a worrying 94 per cent.

Then just this week, a report by BBC's Inside Out programme revealed 60 per cent of mussels fished from four sites off the Kent coast contained plastic particles.

Coupled with scenes of remote islands whose coastlines are littered with plastic detritus washed up from around the world, and it is little wonder why there is now such a renewed push for the use of material to be restricted.

But given our extensive coastline, just what is the impact on our seas right here in Kent?

Last month, hoards of people took to the Kent coastline to be part of the Marine Conservation Society's 24th annual beach cleaning weekend.

A spokesman explained: "Over the last 24 years we've seen an increase in marine litter, particularly in small plastic pieces which are mainly the larger plastic items, such as drinks bottles and plastic bags, breaking down over time into smaller and smaller pieces

"This has a huge effect on our marine environment as the smaller the plastic the easier it is for animals to ingest. Plastic doesn't degrade through digestion and builds up in the stomachs of these animals who then lose nutrition because they're not eating real food.

"A classic example is turtles chomping on plastic bags that in the sea look like their favourite snack of jellyfish. Their stomachs fill with litter often resulting in death.

"Our beach clean data was used as supporting evidence for the plastic bag levy in the UK

and since 2011, when the first levy came into forces in Wales, we've seen an overall 22 per cent decrease in bags on our beaches.

"In Kent, plastic bags went down by 53 per cent between 2015 and 2016, but small bits of plastic has increased on Kent beaches by 48 per cent in the decade up to 2017.

"More and more volunteers are taking part in our beach cleans as the issue of ocean pollution is creeping onto the wider news agenda.

"Volunteers want to make a positive difference to our marine environment by removing the threat. But it's the survey - the recording what they find - that ultimately helps push for change via our campaigns."

Bryony Chapman is the marine policy officer at the Kent Wildlife Trust. She told us: "Our coastal guardians volunteer to keep an eye on Kent's coastline and have reported seeing fewer plastic bottles washing up on beaches this month compared to the summer months. You could conclude, however, that this is due to fewer tourists therefore less rubbish.

"A big problem with plastic is that it is light - it floats and it blows away easily and even if you try to dispose of it carefully, all too often can end up either in the sea or in rivers that ultimately flow into the sea. Plastic never disappears, it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces until even the smaller animals in our oceans end up ingesting it.

"The Marine Conservation Society has noticed a big reduction in the amount of plastic bags they find on their beach cleans since the start of the 5p charge on plastic bags. This shows that this type of incentive can really work to change people's behaviour. What we really could do with now is something similar on plastic bottles.

"As part of the Guardians of the Deep project, we are asking people to make a pledge to help protect the marine environment. It is about reducing the amount of plastic that enters our oceans by making small changes at home, for instance don't flush cotton buds, and stop us-



ing plastic straws."

Herne Bay resident Dr Matthew Jones is a lecturer in political science at the University of Greenwich.

He told us: "The scientific evidence is mounting. We are finding plastic everywhere, from uninhabited coral atolls in the South Pacific to remote Arctic beaches. Microscopic traces of plastic have even been found in the food we eat, such as honey and salt.

"The issue is not whether plastic waste is a problem, but how we solve this problem. The scientists have done their job, and it is now time for politicians to step forward. Both industry and businesses, as well as consumers, are slow to change and adapt without any form of incentive or regulation. If the government wants to take this issue seriously, and it should, it will need to act. This can take the form of incentives, such as the plastic bottle return scheme, which is already being used in Germany and Denmark.

"Alternatively, increased regulation is needed to reduce the amount of plastic waste being generated in the first place."

In the BBC programme, Dr Stephanie Wright from King's College London spelt out the problems facing humans because of our over reliance on plastics.

She said: "Other animals will be eating those animals with plastics, which puts the particles in our food chain.

"Particles could pass through the gut and not cause any effect, or it could release contaminants, and these are chemicals with known human health effects."

But it's not too late to make a difference - and with the help of volunteers and local authorities, we can still slow the tide.

Thanet District Council runs the Thanet Coast Project.

Councillor Lin Fairbrass, cabinet member for community safety and environmental services, said everyone can do their bit.

She told us: "People visiting the beaches in Thanet can all do something to help reduce

the amount of waste at the beach and keep them clean.

"Putting rubbish into the bins is key, and if bins are full, we would suggest either finding another bin nearby or taking waste home and recycling it where possible.

"We give school talks about the impact of plastics in our sea using the information that the Marine Conservation Society share. This includes highlighting how national legislation such as the plastic bag charge has had a positive impact on the environment. The Thanet Coast Project helps volunteer and community groups to get involved in cleaning up the coastline."

The council annually removes 2,400 tonnes of waste from its beaches and 240 bins at a cost of £300,000 per year along its 31 miles of coastline.

And what the county doesn't want, aside from all the other key factors, is its waters becoming so polluted with plastic tourists stop flocking.

Sinead Hanna at Visit Kent said: "We're lucky to have several Blue Flag beaches throughout the county, which is hugely important to any coastal destination - the fact that so much of our coastline has this world-renowned seal of approval for cleanliness and quality makes us all the more appealing to holiday makers, and it's important that we work to maintain this status for both those who live in and visit Kent."



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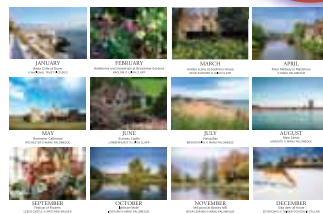
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# Scientists examine artefacts to solve mystery of the Black Prince

A conference will discover fascinating new findings about Edward of Woodstock - better known as the Black Prince - after tests were carried out on items of his taken from Canterbury Cathedral's vaults

By Thomas Hornall

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE wares of a little-known heir to the throne are being tested before a conference to help clarify his legacy. Items including the shield and helmet of Edward of Woodstock (1330 to 1376) - popularly known as The Black Prince - have been analysed by conservation experts hoping to discover more about them.

The research will be discussed at a two-day conference at Canterbury Cathedral on November 16 and 17.

The Black Prince - who died before he could inherit the throne - is the subject of disagreement by historians over his role in a potential massacre of civilians.

One theory says his moniker comes from the slaughter of 3,000 men, women and children in the French town of Limoges in 1370 during the Hundred Years' War.

Yet doubt has been cast on this



**TOMB:** The Black Prince's tomb at Canterbury Cathedral

historical stain on his reputation.

It may be that the name comes from either his wearing of black armour or the black background on his coat of arms.

He was regarded as brilliant militarily, scoring important victories over the French army throughout his life - most famously aged just 16 at the Battle of Crecy.

The ornate tomb of Edward, the son of Edward III and father of Richard II, lies in Canterbury Cathedral

and is a major draw for tourists.

The two-day conference will be attended by world renowned experts who have undertaken research into the Black Prince, his life, his legacy and material culture.

Delegates will have opportunities to visit the cathedral archives and library to view documents and records relating to the Black Prince and to take part in special tours with access to rarely seen parts of the cathedral.



**TESTS:** The Black Prince's helmet which dates from circa 1376 is inspected by Arian Langreder of Canterbury Cathedral before being placed back into the cathedral vault, after it was sent for metal composition testing at a lab in Oxfordshire.

Picture: PA



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# Hops back as weather and demand revives crop

It was once synonymous with the county, but hop growing has been in decline for years...until now, that is

By Chris Murphy  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**J**UST five years ago, it was claimed the once proud industry of hop growing in Kent was "on the cusp" of vanishing forever.

But it seems it may be as hardy as the crop as farmers are now looking to increase their output.

It faced a challenge so many traditional industries do - foreign imported hop varieties proving simply too tough to resist for brewers large and small.

In 2012, Dr Peter Darby, the research director at the National Hop Collection in Faversham, said at the time that some overseas hops had a punchier flavour, something brewers might like.

And he added: "If they decide that their customers prefer the stronger flavours, that obviously signals the end of the English hop industry."

"I think we're on the cusp at the moment. It depends really which way the regional brewers go."

But perhaps what he didn't foresee was the embracing of locally grown produce. What's more, with an explosion in the number of so-called micro-pubs, there has been an increased

demand for locally-sourced real ales - drinks which come with heritage as well as great taste.

Today Kent remains one of the two biggest hop growing counties in the UK as well as the history of the crop and its harvesting being woven into the fabric of the county's heritage.

Ross Hukins is the fourth generation of his family to run Hukins Hops at Tenterden.

He told us the sun and rain combination this year has been "perfect" for growing hops, and his yield is up around 50 per cent per acre - that is over one tonne per acre on the 40 acres he has dedicated to the business.

Mr Hukins said: "To get a tonne and a half per acre is extraordinary for us and that seems to have occurred right across Kent from what I understand, although some are still picking. An average year would be 0.75 to one tonne per acre."

"In my view it is down to the double average monthly rainfall we saw in the summer months married with sunny warm weather. We kept getting heavy rain showers of an inch plus and then 10 days of sunny warm weather and then another inch. That continued right through from when the hops were being fertilised in pin, burr, and then cone; the three key



**HANDFUL:** The scale of hop production is increasing, as is the number of varieties being grown

stages of a hop's life. The weather was perfect this season at no point were our hops under stress."

He is already expanding that acreage ready for next year by a further six acres and is currently using an agronomist to test the soil on his remaining 100 acres to see how much would be suitable for hops.

He said: "Our harvest this year will end up being brewed in millions of pints all over the world."

"A lot of our hops do end up with Kent brewers, but a lot does go around the world too. Hops provide an oil and it's a bit like a spice in a curry - you only need a tiny amount, like a quarter of one hop, for each pint because it is so pungent."

"We specialise in hops and to put up the poles and wire costs around £25,000 an acre so expansion is expensive too."

He said: "We are growing but this is a hard grind and takes an awful lot of infrastructure and capital investment. Locally, a lot of the investment is going in to the wine industry."

Asked about the future of the industry and the doldrums of 2012, he said: "It is turning around. There has been a slight increase in acreage. Half the growers are young and will continue, half are older; with no next generation coming through yet and their farms will likely go in the next 10-20 years or so. That means there will still be a decline. We need new young people coming into our industry desperately along with better education and a better supply chain."

He went on: "The barriers to new growers coming in to our industry is the cost in the drying and processing. To be of a commercial size from scratch you will need a seven figure outlay. The payback is not there yet."

He said American hops grown in hotter conditions are able to produce higher oil levels that have higher intensity of flavours. He explained: "British hops aren't so aggressive and that makes them subtle and ideal for craft brewers making lighter summer ales, traditional bitters and session beers. British hops are totally unique and that is giving them a USP right across the world alongside the existing demand from our growing British brewing industry."

Clive Edmed has 70 acres of hops growing at Hayle Farm, Horsmonden, including an investment project for the Marston's Beer Company, which wanted its own hop garden in Kent.

He told us: "This year has been very good thanks to the weather."

He has seven varieties of hop. This year Goldings and Progress will be going well, but Target may be slightly down, producing more vine than hop, he told us.

Mr Edmed added: "I am hopeful the next few years will be just as productive, but it really is down to the weather. We were lucky this year, but you never know how future years will be. At least we know there will always be a demand for our hops."

Benedict O'Connor is spokesman for Faversham brewers Shepherd Neame - the biggest brewery in the county and one which makes much of its Kentish heritage.

Around 80 per cent of its hops are sourced from the county - including its East Kent Golding which has PDO status - protected denomination of origin, a geographical indication defined within European Union law in order to protect regional agricultural products and foodstuffs from being replicated elsewhere.

He explained: "This year's crop looks to be healthy, and we know that

some of our suppliers in Kent are actually planting new gardens which is some indication of the status of hop growing in the county. Obviously, each year's crop is dependent upon the weather, but on the whole the demand for hops and increasingly for Kentish hops is on the rise."

The British Hop Association said: "The 2017 season is looking good so far with the harvest of some of the earlier varieties, Goldings and Phoenix, beginning towards the end of August. Starting with a cold winter, an early spring and high temperatures earlier in the summer combined with good rainfall, the naturally pessimistic hop farmer could allow himself to think that he might have an excellent or even 'bumper' crop this year."

"However, this can't be confirmed until later in the autumn when the hops are in the bale."

The organisation said confidence in the British hop industry is also demonstrated by an increase in overall hop acreage which has gone up by another four per cent this year from 942 hectares last year to 980 hectares this year.

A spokesman said: "It demonstrates that British hop growers are optimistic about the market going forward and reflects the positivity of the industry over the last few years."

"For the last two years, there has been an increase in hop acreage in the UK which is positive and the number of hop varieties has gone up."

The number of commercially grown varieties has gone up from 12 in 1998 to 31 today.

British hops grown in Kent and Herefordshire represent 1.5 per cent of world hop production with over 40 per cent exported, mainly to the USA.



**TRADITIONAL:** Oast houses were once used for drying the hops



# The Great Storm: 30 years on from an event which scarred the county

It rendered landscapes unrecognisable and caused more than a billion pounds worth of damage, as well as the loss of life of four people. We look back at a storm which knocked the county for six.

**By Chris Murphy**  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**E**XACTLY 30 years ago today, October 15, the county went to sleep with little inkling of what was about to strike it with such ruthless ferocity.

The Great Storm of 1987 swept in and took many by surprise - leaving

millions of the county's trees uprooted, homes and cars damaged, and transformed our landscapes for ever more.

In this special section, we take a look back at that momentous night - looking at the impact it had and some of the memories of our readers who lived through the remarkable chapter in Kent's history.

## DEVASTATION OF OUR TREES AS 15M FALL

IT is rare for an event to completely transform a landscape overnight, but as the morning dawned on October 16 1987, many areas were left almost completely unrecognisable.

And it wasn't just because of the damage to homes and cars, but the devastation caused to the county's trees.

The National Trust, which manages many of the county's top estates, suffered horrendous losses, but looked on the bright side of what it now calls an "ecological shakeup".

Tom Hill is its regional trees and woodland officer. He explained: "A staggering 15 million trees were left battered and uprooted. Many were several hundreds of years old and iconic landmarks at National Trust gardens and historic landscapes such as Chartwell, Emmetts Garden, Knole and Scotney Castle.

"These trees were also unique biological specimens in their own right. They provided a home and sustenance to all manner of living things as part of a much wider ecosystem.

"Despite the residual heartache from all that was lost, it's important to remember that the storm was ultimately a natural occurrence, and one which has been repeated around the planet for millions of years.

"Trees and woodlands are well-adapted to recover from such events in the long term.

"In fact, native wildlife can actually benefit from an ecological shake up every now and again.

"In the years following the storm, many woodlands were systematically 'cleaned up' by bulldozers and bonfires, before being replanted by human hand.

"What has become increasingly more apparent though, is many of the areas left untouched since this time have regenerated more successfully and with a far richer, more diverse standard of habitat.

"Take Toys Hill as an example.

The 200 acre ancient woodland sitting at the highest point in the county lost 98 per cent of its tree cover.

"Afterwards, an area was designated as a 'non-intervention zone'. This gave us the opportunity to learn from the natural recovery processes arising from the storm.

"As light poured into places previously cloaked by canopy, dormant seeds burst into life, dormice populations expanded, woodlark and nightjar numbers increased and birds of prey exploited the more open landscape.

"A handful of stoical veteran trees still remain, providing suitable nest sites for woodpeckers and bats. An abundance of fungi continues to thrive, alongside niche invertebrate species in a well-nourished mosaic of habitats."

Clive Steward is now a site manager for the Woodland Trust, but back then, he had only just started work in Kent.

He said 50 woods owned by the Woodland Trust were affected by the storm, and to repair the damage an appeal was launched to raise £500,000.

Ashenbank Wood, a 79-acre wood and site of special scientific interest near Sevenoaks, saw large areas flattened, blocking paths and entrances. Some horizontal-lying trees are still present at the site, three decades on.

Mr Steward said: "For me it was a baptism by fire, I left for work and in places every other tree seemed to be down.

I edged the car along lanes festooned with frayed green leaves, dodging fallen power lines and tilting tree trunks, and waited while great hulks were cleared off the road. When I finally reached the office, some of my older colleagues were in tears, seeing their life's work in ruins.

"The storm highlighted how fragile our native woods and trees are."



**CHARTWELL:** Churchill's estate after the storm above and how it is today.

Picture: National Trust



**REVIVED:** Emmetts Garden near Sevenoaks, right, then and how the woodland has been revived today

Picture: National Trust





## ROUND UP OF PAIN

**DEATHS:** Four people in the county were killed during that fateful night or as a consequence of it – and more died at sea.

Former head of geography at Maplesden Noakes School in Maidstone, Richard Ashlin was a 38-year-old father-of-three from Staplehurst, who was killed after falling 15ft while climbing down from his roof to fix a dislodged tile.

Tree surgeon Bob Homewood, 59, from Biddenden, died when chimneys collapsed and buried him in his home.

In Walderslade, Sosamma Shilling, 55, was killed by a tree that was felled and crashed

through her roof into the rooms before.

While British Rail worker Tony Telfer from Gravesend, died when a tree fell down an embankment.

**POWERCUT:** Hundreds of thousands were without power as power lines came down and substations damaged. It took over a fortnight to get everyone back up and running. Power bosses said they lost more electricity cables in the storm than the total for the preceding decade.

**PERIL AT SEA:** As the storm moved with unexpected speed up and over the Channel, a bulk carrier, the MV Sumnea capsized

at Dover with three of its six crew killed.

The winds caused havoc for other craft with cross-Channel ferry The Hengist blown out of its moorings at Folkestone harbour and blown onto a nearby beach – becoming a popular tourist destination for a week before it was finally rescued and then underwent months of repairs.

**TREES:** Among all the fallen trees, the story which captured the imagination the most was in Sevenoaks where six of the town's iconic oaks, which give it its name at The Vine, were blown down. New ones were eventually planted to replace them.



**COST:** This caravan site in Reculver, near Herne Bay was left in tatters as the storm ripped through the county

## INSURERS FOOT A £1.4BN BILL

THE Great Storm took the lives of four people in Kent and 22 nationally, but it also left others with massive bills as the full extent of what happened overnight started to emerge with the sunrise.

The financial jolt was so devastating for the insurance companies the entire industry changed almost overnight.

Malcolm Tarling from the Association of British Insurers told us: "We know the event resulted in insured damage of around £1.4 billion in 1987 prices with much of that in the south east.

"Typical of the thousands of insurance claims in Kent covered

properties damaged by fallen trees, replacing fallen roof tiles and damaged roofs, and damaged vehicles."

But the effect of the Great Storm rumbled on long after the winds died down.

The insurance industry feared repeats, and wanted to make it easier for claims to be filed and handled. The 24 hour emergency helpline also arrived in force. Mr Tarling said: "Since the storm, insurers have continually been improving support to customers, especially making use of improved weather forecasting and social media. Back in 1987 weather

forecasting was in need of improvement and social media didn't exist."

He added: "It also saw the widespread introduction of approved trades people to ensure speed and quality in repairs.

"We did see a lot of cowboy builders. In Kent, we even saw some of these rogue traders replacing roof tiles with cardboard and then dramatically overcharging. As an industry, we had to stop that happening."

The analysts found one in six homes in the south east put in some sort of claim, and anything under £1,000 was paid without question by some insurance companies.



**GRAVESEND:** Clear up operation was enormous with many roads blocked by fallen trees and debris for days.

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## A GREAT STORM (BUT NOT A HURRICANE)

THE ferocity of the storm on that fateful night took everyone by surprise.

In the days that followed it was called a hurricane – which suited headline writers but may have been a little factually inaccurate.

So just what caused the storm of 1987?

Dr Chris Young is senior lecturer in the school of human and life sciences at Canterbury Christ Church University. He explains: "The basic factor that contributed to the Great Storm was a strong temperature gradient which caused cold air from high latitudes to be brought south east from Iceland towards Portugal while at the same time warm, moist air was being brought from the region around the Canary Islands towards Spain and France.

"Between these two air masses, the temperature gradient set up a strong pressure difference; a large and strong high pressure developed over western Russia, while to the west of Britain a strong low pressure, or depression, developed.

"While the low pressure had been forecast, what had not been forecast was the speed at which it would deepen and move north east creating 'a fast-moving, vigorous depression' – but not a hurricane – on the evening of October 15.

"All that can be said is that it was a storm which had 'hurricane force winds'."

Author Patrick Nobbs is one of Britain's best known weather historians.

He told us: "Much was made of the clear assertion by weathermen and scientists that this was not a tropical hurricane. So why is that? Atlantic hurricanes form in tropical waters off Africa. They only survive over seas above 27C and are fed by tropical heat. They become vast rotating masses and develop a distinctive circular 'eye'.

"They create gigantic coastal surges of 10-30 feet like tsunamis that drown everything in their path; sustained winds can reach 180mph – gusts 250mph.

"However, this was the worst English storm since 1703 – a once in 300-hundred year event it was said. In fact, only three years later it happened again and 47 people lost their lives."

The storm of 1990 is often overlooked but that too brought hurricane force winds to the county and caused billions of pounds of damage when it struck on January 25. Hitting during the day, it caused more human casualties than the Great Storm.

I saw a further three million trees – many already weakened by the battering in 1987 – fall across the UK.

## READERS' MEMORIES

IT has been etched on my mind for ever.

In the middle of the night the lights went out.

My husband, myself and two older children all got up in the middle of the night and made tea with a saucepan of water.

In the morning most of the fences in our road were down, dustbins were all overturned, debris was everywhere. Some cars were damaged by falling trees and other debris.

We lived in Larkfield at the time and we had no electricity in our area for three weeks.

It was impossible to get any candles in our area but luckily my sister got me some. To this day I still have a large box full of candles just in case!

**Barbara Wilson**, via email

AT the time of the storm I was caretaker of the Towers School in Kennington in Ashford, a Mr Forster was the headteacher.

I slept through the storm and the next morning I awoke to see that all the trees on the school's front garden were laying on the floor.

'Christ,' I thought, 'we've had vandals, I live on site and never heard a thing, the headmaster's going to be cross with me.'

I kept a low profile for an hour until my wife got up and told me of the storm the night before.

**Brian Etherington**, via email

WHEN I went to bed that night the wind was building up. The man next door had left washing on the line and every time I looked out more and more had disappeared as the storm grew stronger.

**SJ Kemp**, New Ash Green

MY garden nursery business in Challock was smashed to pieces.

I recall tonnes of broken glass my family picked up and our standby generator ran non-stop for nearly three weeks.

**Jeremy Shirley**, Charing

I SLEPT through the storm that night, but the next day taking the children out, we went to King George Park in Ramsgate. It was a scene of total devastation with hundreds of trees down. One of the saddest things I've ever seen.

**Hannah Joseph**, via email

I REMEMBER my 14 year old daughter knocking on our bedroom door at 6am, wanting a lift to do her paper round, as it was very windy outside.

As we drove to West Malling high street, avoiding the debris, chimney pots, and so on in the road, it didn't click.

Not even when we got to the paper shop, lit by candles, avoiding the slates and debris in the road.

It still hadn't clicked when we were told there were no papers. Driving to work I actually had to

lift a fallen overhead cable so my car could pass.

At work I found only a few other people had made it into work. Then it all began to sink in, this was serious.

**Phil Granger**, West Malling

ON the morning I had a phone call at 5.30am from the night staff supervisor at the Tunbridge Wells telephone exchange, asking me to go into work ASAP, as the telephone operators couldn't cope with the amount of calls that were coming in.

On my journey to work I had to drive on the wrong side of the road due to all the trees that had blown down.

As I entered the switch room the 'board' was ablaze.

The emergency buzzer was going continuously.

The operators were working flat out, operators were called in from other departments to help answer the calls and telephone engineers were making cups of tea for us.

There was plenty of over-time that week.

Telephone engineers were brought in from as far away as Sheffield to make sure that all priority lines were up and running, such as doctors, vets, farmers, hospitals and public telephone boxes.

It was an experience never to be forgotten.

**Barbara Boorman**, Tunbridge Wells

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# THINNER'S A WINNER IN WORKTOPS

*Louise Milliken explains the benefits of Origina® for a stunning new look...*

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# Grand finale of our awards to crown delicious winners

The Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food and Drink Awards will reveal its winners on Monday night - here's the shortlist

**F**OOD and drink suppliers from across the county will flock to a glitzy event this week hoping to be crowned among the very best as the winners are revealed for the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food and Drink Awards 2017.

The judging panel has whittled down the many nominations received from across the county to a shortlist in each category - and they will be revealed at the black tie event which takes place on Monday at the Ashford International Hotel.

Among the most prized awards up for grabs will be the Restaurant of the Year, Chef of the Year and the Pub of the Year.

Organised by Archant, the publishers of this newspaper and our sister title, the monthly magazine Kent Life, the prizes have become some of the most keenly contested.

Here are those on the shortlist - don't miss next weekend's paper for a full list of all the winners.

## **Restaurant of the Year**

*Sponsored by Canterbury Auction Galleries*

The restaurant of the year will offer a fabulous dining experience, everything from ambience to the service and most importantly, the food. Are ingredients locally sourced? Is the drinks list local as well as international? Can staff tell you more about the food and drink if you ask?

### **Finalists:**

- Chapter One Restaurant, Locksbottom
- Red Sails Restaurant, Faversham
- The Dog at Wingham

## **Newcomer of the Year**

*Sponsored by K Sports*

This award is open to businesses that

have started a new venture in the food and/or drink industry in the past 18 months.

### **Finalists:**

- Houdini's Magic Bar, Broadstairs
- Featherbys, Gillingham
- The Dog at Wingham

## **Chef of the Year**

*Sponsored by Umbermaster Kitchens*

This award aims to recognise those chefs who show an exceptional awareness of produce and have the knowledge and expertise to use their ingredients to create sensational, seasonal menus - local sourcing is a bonus as always.

### **Finalists:**

- Anil Kumar at Flavours by Kumar, Ramsgate
- Robert Taylor at Compasses Inn, Crundale
- Steve Whitney, Whits of Walmer

## **Pub of the Year**



**TENSION:** The event will be hosted by BBC Radio Kent's Andy Garland

*Sponsored by The Foxhunter Park*

Whether it's the food, the drink, the good company or the strong role in the community (ideally, all of them) we want to find the best pubs in the county.

### **Finalists:**

- Three Mariners, Oare
- Kings Head, Wye
- The Plough Inn, Sittingbourne

## **Independent Café/Tearoom of the Year**

*Sponsored by La De Da Boutique*

Judges of this category will be looking

for a café, either on its own or as part of a garden centre, museum or farm venue that really meets the needs of its customers.

Does it demonstrate attention to diners both in terms of its food offering, atmosphere, information and variety of menu? Is the tea and coffee served always of tip-top quality?

### **Finalists:**

- Daily Bread, Rusthall
- Beyond The Grounds, Tonbridge
- The Bow Window Coffee Shop and Cafe, Lenham

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### Outstanding Customer Service

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#### Finalists:

- Creek Creative Gallery, Faversham
- Sulston's Kitchen, Tonbridge
- Hendrick's of Hythe

### Product of the Year

*Sponsored by Financial Advice & Services Ltd*

This award recognises local producers whose passion for Kent produce is at the heart of their business.

#### Finalists:

- Hendrick's of Hythe
- Curiously Kentish, Birchington
- Kent Crisps & Kentish Oils, Ramsgate

### Family Dining Award

*Sponsored by Bakers Bicycle*

This is the place that never fails to keep the kids happy, without forgetting the parents.

#### Finalists:

- The Blean Tavern
- Roost Restaurant & Cafe, Margate
- The Quills, Rochester

### Best Independent Food and Drink Retailer

*Sponsored by Illuminate Skin Clinics*

This winner will consistently show an expert knowledge and passion for their trade, whether a deli, wine or beer store, greengrocer, butcher or baker. They will support great local produce.

#### Finalists:

- The Heath Stores, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
- Hendrick's of Hythe



**WINNERS:** Last year's winners celebrate after the event at the Ashford International Hotel - home, once again, to the awards in 2017

- Curiously Kentish, Birchington

### Farm Shop of the Year

*Sponsored by Karen and Kim Introductions*

A successful farm shop must not only offer a range of produce in an accessible layout, but also work in partnership with local food producers in order to bring their customers the best

seasonal produce, at its freshest best.

#### Finalists:

- Chegworth Farm Shop, Tunbridge Wells
- Farmer's Farm Shop at Teston, Maidstone
- Groombridge Farm Shop, Tunbridge Wells

### Farmers' Market of the Year

*Sponsored by Perry's Chartered Accountants*

The key to a good Farmers' Market is not only the range of produce and the quality of the stalls but also the principles it supports. For example, does it work with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable and is the layout easy

to navigate?

Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks? Is it well advertised and is there good accessibility and parking?

#### Finalists:

- Cliftonville Farmers' Market
- Wye Farmers' Market
- Cranbrook Farmers' Market

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# MD's radical plan for crossing delays

Every business ends up counting the costs of hold-ups when using the Dartford Crossing but could this ease the issue?

By Luke May

luke.may@archant.co.uk

**A**DARTFORD company is calling for a ban on oversized and hazardous vehicles at the Dartford Crossing, saying they should instead be diverted around the motorway.

Europa Worldwide Group, based near the crossing in Albion Road, says it has "officially had enough" of delays at the crossing, sparking calls from managing director Andrew Baxter to ban some lorries altogether.

Managing director Andrew Baxter said: "When an oversized or hazardous goods vehicle enters the crossing, it needs to be escorted in a convoy. Whenever there is a convoy, other traffic has to stop. On average, 100 convoys go through the crossing a day. This means that at least one of the tunnels is closed every 15 min-



**BUSY:** Dartford Crossing is a regular pinch point for business users

utes on average."

Mr Baxter claims the proposal could remove up to two-and-a-half hours of northbound traffic jams at the tunnel each day.

Most of Europa Worldwide Group's lorries are under the tunnels' height restrictions, it does however carry some hazardous goods which would have to use the crossing's convoy system.

The MD added: "In total, convoy vehicles represent less than one per cent of the total traffic through the tunnel, therefore it seems unjust to me that 99 per cent of vehicles are delayed to accommodate them."

"As a business owner, I think diverting the lorries makes sense, we've had people who are ready to work for us, until they realise the location of our offices and are not willing to sit in traffic to and from work every day because we're a mile from the crossing."

Jeremy Kite, leader of Dartford council, responded: "I'm sympathetic to the needs of Dartford businesses that are faced with the problems of the crossing, it's an issue we all constantly face, and I'm grateful the problem has been raised again."

"But I don't think this solution can work, it would just move the problem to Heathrow or other pinch points on the M25, there would still be other issues at the crossing and most haulage firms would face another half a day or



**PROPOSAL:** Europa MD Andrew Baxter believes his radical plan could make a big difference for all users of the crossing

more in travel times, that can't really happen with today's demand."

A spokesperson from Highways England said: "The crossing needs to accommodate all types of vehicle, and Mr Baxter's suggestion has several issues which would make it hard to implement."

"While we are always open to feedback, we do not think that routing all restricted vehicles in the way Mr Baxter suggests would be an acceptable

or practical solution, and we have met Mr Baxter previously to discuss these issues."

*What do you think? Could it help? Or is it an unrealistic solution? Does your business suffer because of the crossing? Share your views and join the debate - email us editorial@kmedia.co.uk or write to The Editor, KoS, Room G46, The Panorama, Park Street, Ashford TN24 8EZ. We'll feature some of the best on a future letters' page.*



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**SHOWS:** Joe Lycett will be performing in Canterbury, Folkestone and Gravesend during a huge UK tour next year.

## He's about to lose control on tour and he's Joe Lycett

Book your tickets now for one of comedy's hottest performers for his 2018 tour

**J**OE Lycett has emerged as one of the most in-demand comics in recent years and with it comes a new tour in which tickets are selling like hot cakes.

And the good news is that Kent gets three stops when it hits the road next year.

For the Birmingham born and bred comic, it is the chance to showcase a new set of observations and set pieces to a bigger audience - and larger venues - than ever before.

"I certainly have some big nights planned on this tour," he explains. "I said to Sarah Millican that I felt I had to write a show that was big enough for those venues and, in her infinite wisdom, she said 'no, the show should be good enough for 100 people'. So, it's intimidating in terms of the scale of it and the sense that there'll be a lot of eyes on me, but I always try and do the

best possible show I can. There's no point otherwise."

His comedy career started off at Manchester University (he won the Chortle Student Award in 2009) before taking several acclaimed shows to the Edinburgh Fringe and supporting the likes of the aforementioned Millican and Jack Whitehall in some of the nation's biggest venues. Given that he's played in rooms of all shapes and sizes, he's in a strong position to know exactly what works for him.

"The beauty of stand-up is that generally it does scale up and it's about your ability to connect with an audience. I think arenas might be too big for the type of shows I want to do, but the theatres are great. I'll be using PowerPoint again which gives the crowd something to focus on and that can scale up as big as you like."

And so to those Joe Lycett pun-based show titles. Having brought us Some Lycett Hot in 2012, he's since come up with If Joe Lycett Then You Should Have Put A Ring On It and That's The Way, A-Ha A-Ha, Joe Lycett. Somewhat trapped in a pun-based maze of his own creation, I'm About To Lose Control And I Think Joe Lycett is the latest in that vein.

Taking a broader view on the world, Joe may even be having his say on the divisive man in the White House. "I have been writing about him and trolling him a little bit, but haven't we all: it's like shouting into the void. I haven't really done much political stuff in my stand-up but I feel that at this point, as many of us as possible have to say 'we're not cool with this'.

"Even if he's impeached and leaves, he's opened so many doors

that we'll never be able to close on how we expect politicians to behave; people saying appalling things might not seem that appalling because it's already normalised."

Still, in moments of crisis, the world of comedy is always able to thrive. "It's a good time to be an artist because there's lots to talk about, so weirdly all that stuff helps. Unless things go to a complete state of emergency there's always scope for people to hear someone talk about the state of things in an intelligent way. Actually, I don't know whether I'm the person to do that.

Joe Lycett will perform at Canterbury's Gulbenkian on March 25, Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on September 20 and Gravesend's Woodville Theatre on September 21. Tickets for all shows are on sale now.

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**KATHLEEN**, attractive lady, 58yrs. Blue-eyed brunette with varied interests. I love life and want a nice gent to share it with me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429047

**SUSANNA**, very attractive well groomed married lady. Works in London, can travel anywhere but cannot accommodate. If you are willing to meet on those terms contact me. I am 42yrs, brunette with a gym toned figure. Text Only. Box: 4038007

**SYLVIA**, 44yrs, curvy busty build. Very respectful. Hoping to meet a good man to love. Call to hear more, I've lots to tell you. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429045

**MONICA**, strict german lady, 32yrs, wanting to meet a submissive, easygoing gent of any age. South East/London only. Text Only. Box: 4079865

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, 56yrs. Slim, brunette who loves life. I'm very passionate and loving. Call me if you are interested. I will reply to all calls and texts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429043

**AISHA**, petite Asian lady, just 23yrs, living at home but hoping to meet a sophisticated, well travelled man to teach me the ways of the world. Pls be discreet as my parents are very strict. Text only. Box: 4003844

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, 44yrs, easygoing, solvent with OHAC. If you are down to earth and loving call me. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429041

**TABITHA**, attractive well groomed lady, 32yrs, own house, good job, hoping for some naught text chat with older gent. Text Only. Box: 4028177

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, 70yrs young, slim, fit and young for my age. I'm hoping to meet a kind gent, must have GSOH, age/looks unimportant. Must be smart and good company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429039

**STEPHANIE**, super sexy black mamma, 55yrs young with curves in all the right places. Call me and you won't be sorry, we can have the time of our lives. Text Only. Box: 4060220

**NANCY**, 40 something years young. Attractive, fun loving and kind. Hoping to meet gent for trips, particularly around Cornwall which I love. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429037

**CANDIDA**, 52yrs, married lady, very well educated with good looks and dress sense. Unappreciated by older husband and hoping for some fun with discreet chap. Text Only. Box: 4010802

**PAULINE**, Sincere lady, 70s, GSOH, OH&C. Curvy with shoulder length dark hair. Varied interests, theatre and travel. WLTW similar minded gent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428977

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

**ANGELA**, 48yrs, seeks no strings casual fun. I have my own house, car and am solvent. I'm busy with a firm figure. You must be open minded, age/status unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 428763

**KATHERINE**, 59yrs, slim, attractive petite lady, loves the countryside, happy with the simple things in life. Hoping to meet like minded chap, any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428975

**MARIELLE**, 45yrs, curvy attractive lady, likes older men. I'm married so you must be discreet. Lets meet up, and make each other smile again. Call me and lets get to know each other. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 426853

**HARRIETT** 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long legs and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205

**SUE**, attractive, nice curves, young outlook, looking for a soul mate, someone interested in car boot sales, going down the beach, walking, social drinks, WLTW genuine man up to around 70 years. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428187

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**ATTRACTIVE** lady, 44yrs, loves life, just missing a down to earth man. ACA/Text answered, contact me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428973

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, young looking 70s, retired nurse, hoping to find a nice gent for cinema, dining, dining, lives pleasure. I'm very kind and miss a man's pleasures. Please contact me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428971

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

**SHEILA**, 64yrs, attractive lady with blonde hair, varied interests and GSOH. WLTW interesting gent. Looks unimportant, must have GSOH. Call or text me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428967

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, 45yrs, loves animals, music, socialising. If you have similar interests then call or text me. Lets meet up and spend time together. Looks unimportant, must have GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428811

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

**TAKE** a chance on me. Beryl, honest black lady. Seeking a gent 50-75 ish, who will treat me with respect. I will be respectful to you, mutual fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428809

**TAMIKA**, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365

**MERRY** widow, 64yrs, lonely and kind. Hoping to meet a kind gent, please call, you won't be sorry. I'm good company and will care for you. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428805

**SUE**, attractive, nice curves, young outlook, looking for a soul mate, someone interested in car boot sales, going down the beach, walking, social drinks, WLTW genuine man up to around 70 years. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428187

**HARRIETT** 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long legs and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205

**TAMARA**, 44yrs, beautiful Indian lady seeks a Muslim gent 40+ Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428147

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**HI** I'm John, 65, 5ft11, medium build, N/S, driver, WLTW a lady to take out for meals, cinema, theatre and days out. It would just be nice to meet someone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428991

**MALE**, modern dresser, likes driving to the coast and different places, looking for someone 60-70, possibly who can drive same as me, just to go out and enjoy life and have a laugh. It would be nice to have someone on my arm and to bring flowers to. Call me and let's have a chat. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428771

**RICHARD**, 55, looking for lady for outings, meals out, pub etc. New to area and lonely. East Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428631

**NICE** looking male, 55, seeks mature female for fun, outings and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334975

**SMART** Thanet male, 70, dark hair, brown eyes, 5ft5, OHOC, likes travel, countryside, the sea, walking, looking for an attractive local lady, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428303

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**CARING**, sociable male, 72, N/S, likes all types of music, walking, meals out, looking for a lady for friendship at first. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426865

**MARIA**, young 54yr old, 5ft 8ins, medium build, blonde hair/brown eyes, likes swimming, walking, pubs and dining out, WLTW male 40-60 with GSOH who is honest, kind and reliable. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428609

**MICHELLE**, 44yrs, attractive lady, great company, hoping to meet mature gent 50+ for loving relationship. ACA/Text answered. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428803

**CARMEL**, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851

**IF** you want to meet a mature busty blonde lady then look no further. Call me, I'm interested in meeting a man who wants a physical relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428799

**TAMARA**, 44yrs, beautiful Indian lady seeks a Muslim gent 40+ Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428147

**MALE**, 58, slim build, 5ft9, brown eyes, hard working, enjoys fishing and socialising, looking for no strings attached fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427173

**HI** ladies, looking for either NSA fun or LTR. I am single/work/live in own house. Text only. Mailbox: 4509325

**LOCAL** 70 year old young male, now single, nice appearance and dresser, looking for fun and friendship with a lady, 55-70, possible holidays. Can travel. Please ring. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426897

**ATTRACTIVE** male, dark hair, brown eyes, 5ft5, solvent, own bungalow and car, likes travel, countryside, seaside, walking, looking for attractive local lady for LTR. Thanet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428127

**GENUINE** retired, mature widower, honest, kind and considerate, enjoys most things, walking, countryside, seaside, seeking a lady for LTR, just wanting to share my life with somebody special. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428023

**SOLVENT** male, older but young at heart, looking for a young lady to wine and dine and spoil and pamper and in turn to pamper me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427443

**MALE**, 55, WLTW a lady, 60-70, for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428039

**SINGLE** dad of two, WLTW a single mum, for a proper relationship. Please get in contact I look forward to hearing from you. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427999

**WELL** off man, wanting a young lady for spoiling. I am a sugar daddy looking for a sugar baby. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427441

**LOCAL** man, seeks lady for friendship possibly more, for romantic dates and good times together, hope to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426195

**JAMES**, 43, genuine, witty, positive, kind and caring, loves travel, socialising, eating out and lots and lots of laughs with the right person, looking for genuine, friendly lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428019

**MALE** 60, 6ft, blue eyes, broad shoulders, size 11 shoes, a real handful! Seeks a fit mature busty woman for fun times. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6001755

**THANET** male, retired, 5ft5, dark hair, smart, OHOC, likes walks, travel in motorhome, looking for a single, attractive lady with similar interests in Thanet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427557

**TALL**, lively old boy, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks tactile lady for company and jolly jaunts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425021

**MALE**, 58, slim build, 5ft9, brown eyes, hard working, enjoys fishing and socialising, looking for no strings attached fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427173

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**MALE**, 50s, likes to cross dress, looking for same for friendship and fun. Has to be discreet. Text only replies. Mailbox: 4623598

**JOHN**, young at heart 65, bi male, looking for casual fun with likeminded male. Maidstone Kent area. Must be discreet. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5657306

**GAY** guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267

**EASY** going guy, 68, likes walks, books, seeks N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411413

**ROB**, bi-curious male, 55, seeks likeminded male, crossdresser/TV. Must be discreet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426287

**MALE**, 40s, seeking gym buddy to attend DW gym in the early evenings, similar age. Margate. Text only. Mailbox: 5779191

**BI** male, aged 54 seeks similar for friendship and fun. Text only Mailbox: 4623598

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.5



# Crypt set to reveal the secrets of 600-year-old bridge trust

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

**A**N EXHIBITION is set to unveil the mysteries of one of the country's oldest charities. The Rochester Bridge Trust has provided and maintained crossings of the River Medway for more than 600 years – with the first bridge on the site built almost 2,000 years ago – but there is still much that remains unknown about the organisation. But now the free to enter Bridge Works exhibition hopes to shed a little light on the organisation and takes place in the newly restored crypt at Rochester Cathedral.

It will tell the story of the crossings that have helped shape the Medway area and how the bridge trust was formed and is now run.

Andrew Freeman, operations manager at the Rochester Bridge Trust, explained: "The aim of the Bridge Works exhibition is to tell the story of the bridges and how the Rochester Bridge Trust has cared for them."

"The displays will encourage adults and children alike to find out more about this ancient charity and what it continues to achieve today."



**HISTORIC:** Rochester's bridges are just some of those maintained by the trust

The cathedral crypt will house the main exhibition, taking visitors through the ages as they follow the changing shape of Rochester's bridges. While across the hall will house a series of fun and educational civil engineering activities for children.

Caroline Chisholm, education officer at the trust, explained:

"Children aren't always keen on historical exhibitions, but we really want to reach out to the whole community, so we've devised a series of activities to appeal to youngsters, that will be available throughout the exhibition."

Sue Threader, bridge clerk at the trust adds: "The exhibition takes its name from the Bridgeworks List, a document which recorded the maintenance of the first bridge

at Rochester, that had been built by the Romans.

"The oldest surviving copy of this list is contained in the Textus Roffensis, dating from 1120, and visitors will be able to see it as part of the exhibition."

The free exhibition will be open daily, from 10am until 4pm with additional children's activities on October 23. The exhibition will run until June 2018.

## Know what I mean Frank?

FORMER world heavyweight boxing champion Frank Bruno will be signing copies of his book, Let Me Be Frank, and meeting fans at the Waterstones in Bluewater. He'll appear from noon on November 4.



## Glyndebourne on tour

THE 49th consecutive Glyndebourne Tour is preparing to hit the road, with The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury its first stop from October 31 to November 3.

This year's three productions are Mozart's Così fan tutte, Rossini's Il barbiere di Siviglia, and Brett Dean's new opera of Hamlet.

## Just a sweet fundraiser

A SPECIAL fundraising screening of cult classic The Rocky Horror Picture Show takes place at the Avenue Theatre in Sittingbourne on October 21. Tickets cost £10 and are on sale now.



## Christmas lights switch on

WESTWOOD Cross will hold a special event to switch on its Christmas lights on November 17.

The Broadstairs shopping complex says it will announce its special guests for the night soon – expected to include a sprinkling of celebrities. Last year saw X Factor winner Matt Terry and Gogglebox's Sandi Bogle.

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## Amy musical for West End?

A MUSICAL celebrating the life of late singer Amy Winehouse could make its way to London's West End, her father has said.

Mitch Winehouse from Greenhithe says talks are currently under way.



## RSC teams up with CCW

THE Community College Whitstable has become a Royal Shakespeare Company Associate School to help enhance its teaching of the playwright's works.

Rehearsals at the school's Shakespeare club will also allow students to earn opportunities to perform as part of the wider RSC network.

## Roll up, its the Hogwallops

CIRCUS show The Hogwallops stages three performances at Folkestone Quarterhouse on October 23 and 24. The family-friendly show is suitable for all age groups and tickets are on sale now.



## Pirates of Broadstairs

RAMSGATE Operatic will stage Gilbert & Sullivan's comic opera the Pirates of Penzance at the Sarah Thorne Theatre in Broadstairs on October 28-29.

The shows form part of the Canterbury Festival. Tickets cost £10-12 in advance and are on sale now.

# Dylan art is a-changin' hands for cool £1,500

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

AN EXHIBITION of works by the legendary performer Bob Dylan has gone on display for the first time in Kent.

Titled The Beaten Path, the collection of 15 limited edition graphics is a continuation of the first instalment, released last year.

A spokesman explains: "It marks the next chapter in the visual chronicle of Dylan's travels whilst touring, capturing iconic images as he journeys through America."

"From epic cityscapes to humble roadside eateries and boundless, limitless highways, the collection of graphics offers a view into some of the most pivotal and powerful images of Dylan's oeuvre to date."

What will particularly appeal to both fans and collectors is that each edition is hand-signed by the artist.

Just don't expect them to come cheap, however.

The cheapest of the graphics you can buy will set you back £1,500.

The prints are released by Washington Green Fine Art and



are available to buy from Castle Galleries in Bluewater or Castle Fine Art in Tunbridge Wells.

Peter Gilby, regional sales director for Castle Galleries, said: "Following the overwhelming response to Dylan's debut The Beaten Path collection last year, we have received huge demand for more of his work."

"It is a real honour to have this major new body of work in our galleries, giving us a unique insight into the everyday occurrences and objects of American life

through Dylan's eyes.

"We anticipate the artwork will be popular with collectors and art lovers across the world, and would invite those who would like to view the collection to visit their local gallery sooner rather than later."

Dylan, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature last year and sold more than 125 million records globally, has performed twice in Kent in recent years - in both 2010 and 2012 as headliner of the Hop Farm Festival in Paddock Wood.



**STAR:** Dylan takes his artistic inspiration from his travels



**WORK:** Above and left, some of the work on show in Kent

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# Russell's steps to a radical re-branding of himself

Funny, controversial and entertaining in equal measure, **Hannah Stephenson** meets Russell Brand

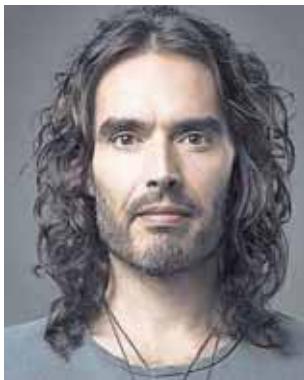
**R**USSELL Brand has been a bit of a handful in the past - anarchic comedian, political activist, ex-addict of booze, drugs and sex - but today he is upbeat and, well, happier than he has seemed in a long time.

Marriage - to Laura Gallacher (sister of TV sports presenter Kirsty and daughter of golfer Bernard) - is obviously suiting him well, and he is loving fatherhood (he and Laura have an 11-month-old daughter, Mabel).

"Fatherhood has changed me because I've got this whole new person in my life that I'm completely in love with, two people that I'm completely in love with, in fact, three including me - it's a good thing I put myself last," he says dryly.

Last time we met, Brand didn't seem quite so happy. He had divorced his first wife, singer Katy Perry, had reportedly been in an on-off relationship with Jemima Khan and was promoting his 2014 book *Revolution* - a rant calling for a global revolution involving radical wealth redistribution and spiritualism, squeezing all his meanderings about celebrity, politics and corruption in between.

Today, he seems in a calmer and more positive place as he discusses his latest book, *Recovery*, a self-help guide which follows the 12 step programme he applied to his own drugs and alcohol addiction, but which he says can actually help in all aspects of life, whatever your issue, from relationship problems to just simply seeking



**FATHER:** The star admits he has mellowed since fatherhood

ing changes that'll make you happier.

Brand, who has been drug-free for 14 years, explains: "My relationships with other people can be problematic and the 12 steps tool helps you to deal with people and with yourself. Everyone's got to deal with the problem, whether it's heroin or food or gambling, or you're in a job or relationship that you don't really like."

He's self-deprecating and funny in the book, admitting his own numerous flaws and weaknesses, and recounting incidents when he behaved like an indulgent, spoilt brat, as he tries to guide the reader on the path to happiness.

But there's a chapter towards the end in which he writes movingly and poignantly about the birth of his

daughter, which shows a different side to this often disarming character.

"Little Mabel was born when I was in the middle of writing the book, so it was obviously a vivid experience. I got into a position psychologically and emotionally because of this program, so that it was possible that the best thing in the world could happen to me - and that was becoming a father."

So has he mellowed? "People change over time," he reflects, "but I still have quite a lot of passion. I've long wanted to know for a fact that I'm not the most important person in the world, and to see that, that's a beautiful thing, not a terrifying thing."

*Recovery: Freedom From Our Addictions* is published by Bluebird, priced £20. Available now.

## Lamps celebrate 90th

THE Tonbridge-based Local Amateur Musical Players turn 90 this year and will be staging *Musicality* to celebrate.

The musical will be staged at the EM Forster Theatre in Tonbridge between October 20-21. Tickets priced at £12 are on sale now.

In addition, a special book celebrating Lamps' history is also now on sale and can be purchased at the theatre.

## Foster & Allen sing up

IRISH duo Foster & Allen bring their latest tour to Chatham's Brook Theatre on November 16.

The duo formed in 1975 and enjoyed great success in the 1980s with hit singles such as *Maggie* and *A Bunch of Thyme*.

Since the 80s, Mick and Tony have toured the UK twice a year playing to sold-out appreciative crowds.

Tickets are on sale now.

## Superstar DJs night

A HOST of big names will perform a special DJ set at Ramsgate Music Hall on December 15.

Hosted by Vic Reeves, it also features Ab Fab's Jane Horrocks, Waterloo Road's Mark Benton, Silk's Neil Suke and Luther's Stephen Mackintosh.

Proceeds from the show will go the RNLI in Walmer.

Tickets cost £10.

## Maddy Prior in town

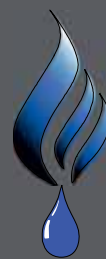
QUEEN of folk Maddy Prior will be playing at Revelation St Mary's in Ashford later this month.

The performer, lead singer of Steeleye Span, will be performing alongside Giles Lewin and Hannah James on October 24.

The trio have worked together for five years, creating the album *3 for Joy*. A second collaboration is currently in the works. Tickets cost £21.

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## EU lays down rules in 'stone'

AFTER centuries of self rule, we once ran a quarter of the world; to suggest we are unable to stand alone or make our own laws is laughable [KoS, letters, ad nauseum].

Indeed, the suggestion by the EU that their nationals need some form of protection from us, as if we were a 'banana republic', is deeply offensive and it's about time somebody said so.

There may be some drawbacks from leaving the EU, but it depends how much of their greed, arrogance and corruption it really is worth putting up with, to get minimal returns. They have taken years to do trade deals around the world, as it needs only one of the 27 states to have a self interest against.

All the more reason for the greater unification wanted by Mr Juncker et al, so they can proceed to one government.

People think London is remote, imagine us totally ruled from Brussels.

The EU proceed with negotiations as if their rules were sent down on tablets of stone, as if they occupy the moral high ground, as if they are without fault or blemish.

The EU leaders are intransigent, undemocratic, unwilling to listen and determined to build their one government order no matter how many people suffer, how much it costs and whether their members lose all identity.

There may be some ready to sell their birthright for 'a mess of potage', but having bothered to look into what the EU is really all about, rather than get my 'facts' from the Sun, I realise my forefathers were right to fight for our independence.

**Phil Granger,**  
West Malling

## Speeding will be recipe for horror

TERRY Hudson poses the question [KoS, letters, last week] whether on a deserted summer's morning motorway, in a suitable car, is it so bad to drive at furious speeds that are currently illegal?

Mr Hudson wants to understand that not all motorists have been intensively trained on courses to travel at extreme speeds such as a traffic cop or a Formula One racing driver. And even they, as we know, sometimes have very nasty accidents indeed.

It takes a certain type of person to stay concentrated and maintain control of an ordinary vehicle travelling well in excess of 100mph for a considerable distance. Only a small percentage would make the grade.

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## Don't be fooled by all the myths over the EU

I respond to uninformed and 'Little Englander' letters from Brexiteers, to put their caps on straight!

They should stop blaming the EU for things that are actually the result of our own past and present governments' policies and actions.

In common with all EU member countries, our sovereign, democratically elected, parliaments agreed by treaty to confer powers to it in respect of trade and its related activities only. These EU competences also ensure a fair and level playing field between members.

Furthermore, the European Court of Justice's only role is to rule on disputes about those trade and related competences, such as its essential free movement of labour/people. It has no jurisdiction or 'control' over any other British law whatsoever, and never will have, unless voted on by our own elected MPs in our sovereign parliament.

The EU is not run by 'unelected bureaucrats' but by the European Council comprising the heads of state or government of the member

states, together with its own elected president plus the president of the commission. It is the EU institution that defines the general political direction and priorities of the EU and appoints the members of the commission, its equivalent to our senior civil servants, every five years.

As for what we owe the EU and vice versa, that is clearly dependant upon what we, and they, have agreed by treaty or in writing for specific purposes, during our membership term. Theresa May, quite rightly, committed to that in her Florence speech.

There are far more EU myths and lies to add, but they would fill a number of this newspaper's pages. However, I leave you with just one - 'red tape' and its, supposed, reduction. Have you all thought of its increased need for goods and services exported to, and imported from, EU countries? And of all the new administration required to 'cover' tasks formerly done for us by the EU?

**John Dutton,** Tunbridge Wells

As all motorists drive different sorts of vehicles and their ages and capabilities vary considerably, it is surely a recipe for disaster to abolish speed restrictions which would allow everyone to drive as fast as they want to in a potential frenzied free-for-all.

Some motorists may well feel confident to drive 50mph-plus faster than the current motorway speed limit, but for others 70mph is perfectly adequate and a statutory increase would make them feel apprehensive and uncomfortable.

There are already enough terrible crashes happening on our highways. Any raising of the motorway speed

limit would see these incidents of horrible carnage unfolding with even greater regularity.

**Clive Wilkins-Oppler**  
Canterbury

## Hudson is driving the wrong way

ONE of your readers, Terry Hudson, was commenting about raising speed limits on motorways.

I appreciate that he lives in an autocracy which means "rule by the car".

Whilst there are much better

braking systems and so on on cars than in the past there are also unfortunately more distractions such as texting.

It seems strange that as he has commented before unfavourably about petrol prices rising that he seems not to appreciate that petrol consumption goes up according to the speed at which vehicles are driven.

If he has discovered a new rule that driving faster leads to lower petrol consumption figures per kilometre, I am sure that the institutes such as the Royal Statistical Society of which I am a fellow would be delighted to see the evidence.

**David Spurling,**  
Sittingbourne

## Sands really do need protecting

I HAVE to say I am dumfounded that anyone could suggest that removing a significant part of the Goodwin Sands to build a yacht marina is of no concern and that somehow the difficulty in navigating the Channel will be in anyway improved by dredging the sands [KoS, letters, last week].

The alternative to dredging the Goodwins is to remove some sand from the Thames Estuary and will cost little more if Dover Harbour Board (DHB) consider the whole aggregate processing system from beginning to end.

This whole misguided project is bound up in an ill conceived and unnecessary desire to save money; probably so that the directors of the DHB can benefit, as surely no one else will.

Ms Jameson's lack of knowledge clearly shows, as indeed many wreck sites are preserved, why plundering wrecks for artefacts in many parts of the world can lead to serious trouble for those perpetrating such activities, which sometimes might be treated as aquatic tomb robbing.

The Goodwin Sands is a unique site and if it is to be excavated, it should be done with care and reverence for those whose remains are buried in the sands.

Running over any part of it with a suction dredger is like using a bulldozer to excavate Stonehenge or the site of a First World War battlefield.

Finally, as a former seafarer I understand all too well about the perils of navigating among shoals, sandbanks and other hazards, but I would not wish to see the heritage and ecology of the sands, unduly disturbed, merely for a short term narrow minded gain.

**George Noakes,**  
Dover

## KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

**Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

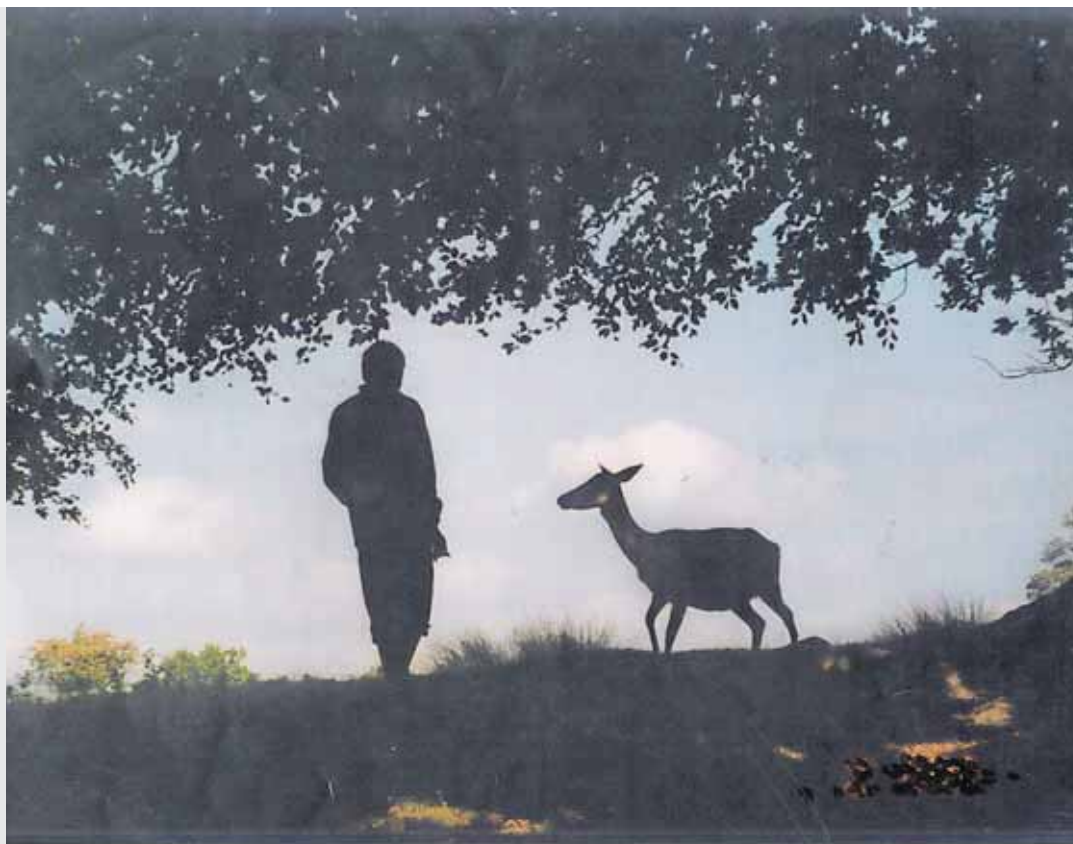
people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

**We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.**





**Knole Park,  
Sevenoaks**  
by **Pam Penfold, from  
Rainham**

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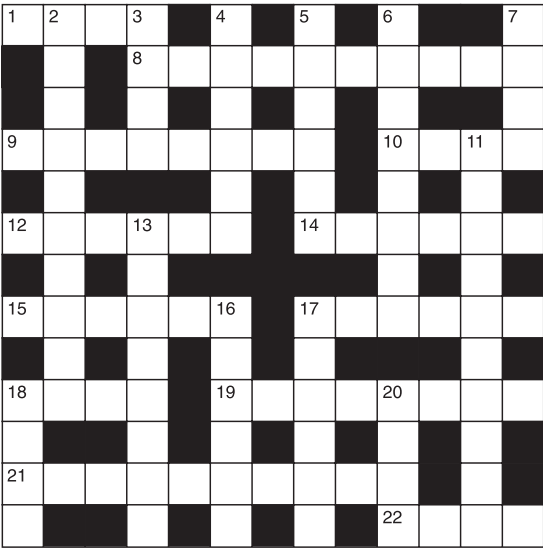
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PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD



Quick

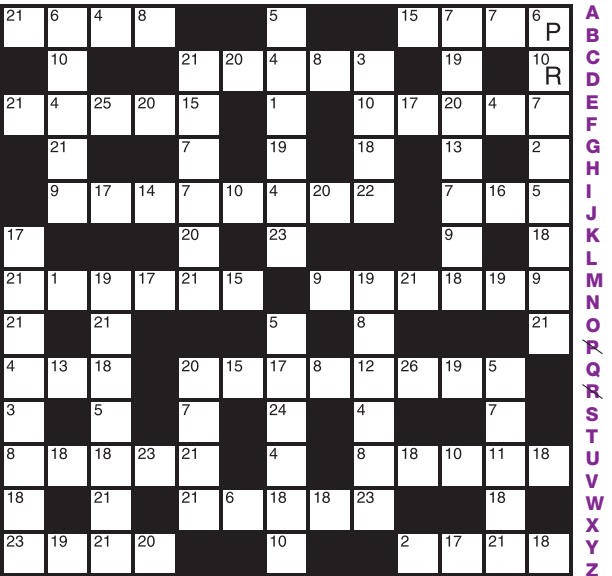
- Across**
- 1. Region (4)
  - 8. Revile (10)
  - 9. Shorten (8)
  - 10. Manhandle (4)
  - 12. Chastise (6)
  - 14. Deceive (6)
  - 15. Nipped (6)
  - 17. Recent (6)
  - 18. Cosy (4)
- Down**
- 2. Turn (10)
  - 3. Greedy (4)
  - 4. Stink (6)
  - 5. Disseminate (6)
  - 6. Creased (8)
- Across**
- 19. Audacity (8)
  - 21. Disastrous (10)
  - 22. Neat (4)
- Down**
- 7. Hades (4)
  - 11. Comprehended (10)
  - 13. Whole (8)
  - 16. Numskull (6)
  - 17. Wealth (6)
  - 18. Plunder (4)
  - 20. Repose (4)

Cryptic

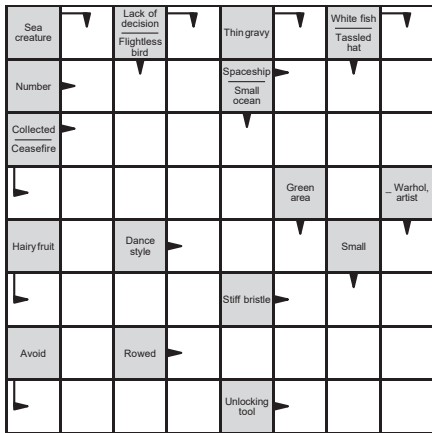
- Across**
- 1. Constrictor gets right animal (4)
  - 8. Use a quince, the only example of its kind (6,4)
  - 9. Tolerate Irishman and refuse to change (5,3)
  - 10. Neat substitution of dunderhead for learner in 7 (4)
  - 12. Hot stuff very quietly swallowed by aristocrat (6)
  - 14. Fears losing head makes mistakes (6)
  - 15. Very unusual exit (3-3)
  - 17. Collision causes one politician to do something (6)
  - 18. Leave out big metal container for rubbish (4)
  - 19. Monocle used to look at tumbler? (8)
  - 21. Dilutes wine for rowing, for example (5,5)
  - 22. Instrument featured on rhinoceros (4)
- Down**
- 2. Having made a start, but not on target (3,3,4)
  - 3. Destruction of one in unbroken succession (4)
  - 4. Cured fish having a sleep? (6)
  - 5. One will capsize if one turns it (6)
  - 6. A fall for detectives is sweet! (4,4)
  - 7. One side went away (4)
  - 11. He makes prediction of return on rebuilt terraces (10)
  - 13. Does he make the cast quicker to act? (8)
  - 16. Twice set about fly (6)
  - 17. A chilling reception is only to be expected here (3-3)
  - 18. All four points irregularly stitched (4)
  - 20. Thin strip of wood produced by turning machine without end (4)

CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



Arrowword

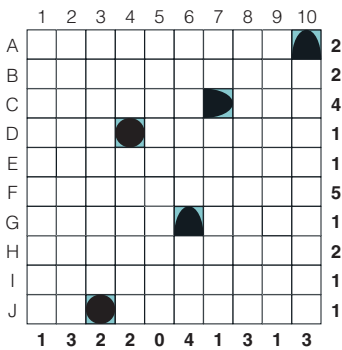


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

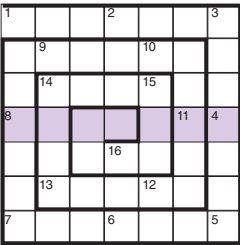
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET  
1 x Battleship  
2 x Cruiser  
3 x Destroyer  
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



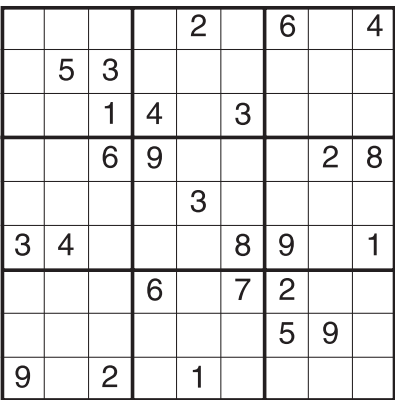
Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

- 1. Difficult
- 2. Extinct bird
- 3. Cry of pain
- 4. Group of cattle
- 5. Terrible fate
- 6. Frame of mind
- 7. Waterfowl
- 8. Osculate
- 9. Condiment
- 10. Tense
- 11. Mountain lake
- 12. Amphibian
- 13. Row
- 14. Hurry
- 15. Oregano
- 16. German city

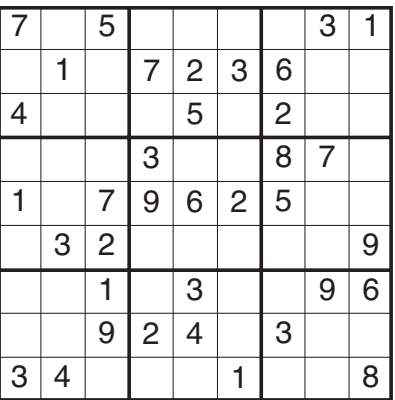
Keyword clue: A boy's name

SUDOKU

Hard



Easy



Solutions

**Double Crossword**

22 Tidy, Down: 2  
21 Calamitous:  
18 Snug; 19 Tenderly;  
15 Bitten; 17 Modern;  
12 Punish; 14 Delude;  
Condense; 10 Maul;  
8 Viperate; 9  
Across: 1 Area;  
20 Lath;  
17 Icebox; 18 Sewn;  
Prompter; 16 Tsetse;  
11 Forecaster; 13  
6 Acid drop; 7 Left;  
4 Kipper; 5 Turtle;  
the mark; 3 Run;  
Horn; Down: 2 Off  
21 Water sport; 22  
18 Skip; 19 Eggplant;  
Way-out; 17 Impact;  
Pepper; 14 Errors; 15  
Stand pat; 10 Debt; 12  
8 Unique case; 9  
Across: 1 Boat;  
Cryptic  
Double Crossword

**Battleships**

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Pepper; 14 Errors; 15  
Stand pat; 10 Debt; 12  
8 Unique case; 9  
Across: 1 Boat;  
Cryptic  
Double Crossword

**Sudoku - Easy**

3 4 6 5 9 1 7 2 8  
8 7 9 2 4 6 3 1 5  
2 5 1 8 3 7 4 9 6  
5 3 2 4 7 8 1 6 9  
1 8 7 9 6 2 5 4 3  
6 9 4 3 1 5 8 7 2  
4 6 3 1 5 9 2 8 7  
9 1 8 7 2 3 6 5 4  
8 7 9 5 2 1 6 3 4

**Sudoku - Hard**

9 6 2 3 1 5 8 4 7  
1 3 7 8 4 2 5 9 6  
5 8 4 6 9 7 2 1 3  
3 4 5 2 1 8 6 9 7  
2 9 8 1 3 6 4 7 5  
7 1 6 9 5 4 3 2 8  
6 2 1 4 8 3 7 5 9  
4 5 3 7 6 9 1 8 2  
8 7 9 5 2 1 6 3 4

**Arrowword**

S H U N  
K I W I  
T A P A  
T R U C E Z  
A M A S S E D  
T E N U F O  
S I J C

**Battleships**

22 Tidy, Down: 2  
21 Calamitous:  
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Stand pat; 10 Debt; 12  
8 Unique case; 9  
Across: 1 Boat;  
Cryptic  
Double Crossword

# It was the very first time that I had Binn...

You've probably heard of St Moritz and Lucerne. But have you been to Binn, asks **James Marston**?

**N**estling in the south of Switzerland, just a few miles from the Italian border, the Binn valley is stunningly beautiful. The area is popular with hikers and boasts the Binntal nature reserve, a pristine national park to truly get away from it all. Easy to get to – Switzerland has regular flights from across the UK – and easy to get around, the public transport system is amazingly efficient – the Binn Valley is about three hours by train from Zurich. I didn't need a car. Popular with early tourists in the 19th century, the Binn valley is in a French-and German-speaking area. The villages are charming, unspoilt

and picture postcard with traditional wooden houses, village squares, and white-washed churches. Each village has something to offer – Ernen is famous for its music festival, Gremiol for its tulips. The Binntal is also famous for its crystals and minerals and I enjoyed a mineral excursion with a local expert. But it is the scenery that attracts. Hiking here isn't for the faint-hearted. You need the right shoes, a head for heights, a degree of physical fitness and a couple of hiking sticks wouldn't go amiss. However, the paths are well-marked and signposted, the views fantastic and the mountain air noticeably clear – take your time is my advice. And after a day's hiking – or even, in my case, a strenuous

morning – it's always time for a decent lunch and a glass of wine. Eating out isn't especially cheap but it's unusual to have a bad meal. I lunched at the Hotel Ofenhorn in Binn itself, an historic hotel whose guests have included Winston Churchill. For dinner, Ernen boasts the Restaurant ErnerGarten which focuses on local produce and delicacies. Accommodation is plentiful but for those looking for something a little different the modern Chasertatt Hotel stands at 1,777 metres overlooking the valley. Offering smart and comfortable rooms – many with stunning views – home brewed beer, excellent food and a well stocked bar, the Chaserstatt is

welcoming and hospitable. For those who enjoy a more relaxed ramble than a heavy hike, the old road through the Twingli Gorge is well worth the effort. Just a few miles long, the road was once the only way through the gorge until a modern tunnel was bored alongside in 1965. Today the path is open to walkers and cyclists and takes in spectacular scenery and rare flora. On the other side of the valley – so steep its almost inaccessible – you might be lucky to spot an ibex or chamois grazing in the morning. The walk ends, conveniently, at alpsaga – a traditional farmstead in Binn offering raclette – hot melted cheese with pickles – and a glass of crisp Swiss white wine. Lovely.



■ Hotel Chaserstatt: 'An excellent place to rest weary legs,' says James Marston. Picture: PEDRO RODRIGUES

## HOW TO GET THERE

James was a guest of Switzerland Tourism and the Swiss Travel System. For more information on Switzerland visit [www.MySwitzerland.com](http://www.MySwitzerland.com). SWISS operates more than 180 weekly flights to Switzerland from London Heathrow, London City, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh (seasonal during summer) and Dublin. For reservations visit: [www.swiss.com](http://www.swiss.com). By road, rail and waterway throughout Switzerland: The Swiss Travel System provides a dedicated range of travel passes and tickets exclusively for visitors from abroad. For more information visit [www.swisstravelsystem.co.uk](http://www.swisstravelsystem.co.uk).

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## We Love the 60s Seaside Christmas Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Friday 10 November, 2017 • Quote: CP11-1-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for an early taste of Christmas - for over 40s only - as we rock the weekend away to the sounds of the 60s. Our brilliant entertainment programmes feature top 60s bands and tribute acts including Marty Wilde and the Wildcats, Union Gap UK, The New Honeycombs, Dave Grant of Paper Lace and The Beatle (John Lennon tribute). Enjoy non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and half-price drinks at this rockin' party weekend.

**INCLUDED:** Half Price bar drinks - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers - lunch times and evenings from Friday night to Sunday night  
• Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet (bed linen and towels included)  
• club upgrade available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free parking

3 nights  
half board  
PLUS  
£139pp



## Mamma Mia & Super 70s Spring Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Friday 9 March, 2018 • Quote: MS3-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring blast - for over 40s only - as we rock the weekend away to the sounds of the 70s. Our brilliant entertainment bill features Abba's Angels and a screening of Mamma Mia the Movie, Showaddywaddy, Saturday Night Bee Gees, Little Eagle, a celebration of Neil Diamond PLUS house band Sounds Imperial. You'll enjoy non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and half-price drinks at this rockin' party weekend.

**INCLUDED:** Half-price drinks all weekend - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers lunch times & evenings from Friday night to Sunday night  
• Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - £149pp - bed linen and towels included - club upgrade available - £179pp • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free parking

3 nights  
half board  
PLUS  
£149pp



## Super 60s to Mamma Mia Christmas Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Friday 17 Nov, 2017 • Quote: CP11-2-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for an early taste of Christmas - for over 40s only - as we rock around the Christmas tree to the sounds of the 60s, 70s and Abba. Entertainment includes super mimics The Barron Knights, The Swinging Blue Jeans, Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations), Vivo - The New All Stars with Keith Slater, PLUS Mamma Mia the movie and an Abba tribute band. Enjoy non-stop entertainment from Friday night to Sunday night, half price drinks and a fab festive atmosphere.

**INCLUDED:** Half-price drinks all weekend - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers lunch times & evenings from Friday night to Sunday night • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - £139pp - bed linen and towels included - club upgrade available - £169pp • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free parking

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## Swinging 60s to Dirty Dancing Summer Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Friday 29 June, 2018 • Quote: SP6-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for the ultimate feel good Summer Party - for over 40s only. We will take you back in time for a fun filled, entertainment packed weekend, including Hermans Hermits, Marmalade, The Rag Dolls, Rob Dee as Billy Fury, a Dirty Dancing Tribute Show PLUS house band Sounds Imperial. You'll also enjoy half-price drinks all weekend.

**INCLUDED:** Half-price drinks all weekend - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers lunch times & evenings from Friday night to Sunday night • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - club upgrade available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free parking

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**CHANGE:** Stonic takes Kia into the blossoming compact crossover market. Pictures: Kia



## Kia in compact crossover debut with super Stonic

KIA'S all-new Stonic, its first compact crossover, can be ordered now ahead of going on sale October 23.

Available in '2' and First Edition trims, prices start at £16,295 rising to £20,495.

The front-wheel drive Stonic will be available with a 98bhp 1.4-litre petrol engine, a 118bhp 1.0-litre turbo petrol and a 108bhp 1.6-litre turbo diesel. All have a six-speed manual gearbox and engine stop/start to prevent wasting fuel and creating CO2 when at a standstill.

Grade '2' Stonic will be available with all three engines, while First Edition drops the entry 1.4-litre petrol unit.

All versions are generously equipped, with an extensive range of active safety features and up-to-the-minute connectivity in First Edition.

Electronic stability control and vehicle stability management and hill-start assist are standard across the range and autonomous emergency braking and lane departure warning standard in First Edition and optional on '2'.

First Edition also gets driver attention warning, high-beam assist, blind spot detection with rear cross traffic alert.

Grade '2' has a seven-inch display with DAB radio and MP3 compatibility which is upgraded in



First Edition to touchscreen navigation and infotainment system with Kia Connected Services with TomTom. Android Auto and Apple CarPlay smartphone integration are standard across the range.

All models have 17in alloy wheels, air conditioning, four electric, roof rails, rear parking

sensors, remote locking, electric heated door mirrors, Bluetooth with voice recognition and music streaming, automatic lights, bi-function projection headlamps and cornering lights, daytime running lights, steering wheel-mounted audio controls, 60/40 split rear seats and six-speaker audio system.





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New Qashqai Range: URBAN 38.2-67.3mpg (7.4-4.2L/100km); EXTRA URBAN 54.3-78.5mpg (5.2-3.6L/100km); COMBINED 48.7-74.3mpg (5.8-3.8L/100km); CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 134-99g/km.

Offer valid until 21 December 2017 at participating Dealers only and subject to vehicle availability. Private retail customers only. Finance provided by Nissan Finance, PO Box 495, Watford WD17 1BR. Subject to status. Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Channel Islands). Terms and conditions apply, please visit [www.nissan-offers.co.uk/termsandconditions](http://www.nissan-offers.co.uk/termsandconditions) or your local Dealer for full details. \*£3,500 TOTAL FINANCE DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION ON NEW NISSAN QASHQAI INCLUDES EXISTING £1,500 CONTRIBUTION OFFER WHICH IS AVAILABLE WITHOUT A TRADE IN AND IS ONLY AVAILABLE WHEN TAKEN ON 4.49% APR PCP NISSAN FINANCE PRODUCT AND IS ONLY AVAILABLE ON THE TEKNA. \*\*Nissan Switch Scheme is a finance deposit contribution of £2000 available with New Nissan Qashqai Tekna. Switch Scheme offers require part exchange of an eligible vehicle (registered in 2009 or earlier) and may be withdrawn, amended or extended in Nissan's discretion without notice. Trade-in vehicle has to be registered to the customer for a minimum of 90 days. Terms and conditions apply, see [nissan.co.uk/switch](http://nissan.co.uk/switch) Price includes first registration fee and 12 months' road fund licence. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing, in accordance with 2004/3/EC and intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results. (Optional equipment, maintenance, driving behaviour, road and weather conditions may affect the official results.) Information correct at time of going to print. Model shown is a Tekna with optional metallic paint at £575. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9VS.



# Nissan's capable, comfortable Qashqai

The new Nissan Qashqai has landed in the UK. Motors reporter Simon Davis drives the latest version of the original, pioneering crossover to see how it fares.

**N**ISSAN will tell you the Qashqai is the original crossover. Since the first-generation in 2007, it has sold 2.3 million in Europe alone. It's confident the latest Qashqai will continue that success.

Looks-wise, not a lot has changed compared with the second-generation model launched in 2014. The slightly revised front has a larger 'V-motion' grille, sleeker head and tail lights and extra chrome on higher-specification models for a more upmarket image.

A new range-topping Tekna+ aims to appeal to buyers after a more premium crossover, the cabin's more refined but the biggest headline is Nissan's ProPilot autonomous driving technology. Available from 2018, it will allow the Qashqai to control its steering, acceleration and braking in a single lane on motorways and in traffic.

The 1.5-litre, four-cylinder diesel engine, developing a modest 110PS and 260Nm of torque, is popular. Performance may not be its forte but economy and emissions are impressive.

Other options are 115PS 1.2-litre and 163PS 1.6-litre turbo petrol and



130PS 1.6-litre turbo diesel, the latter offered with four-wheel drive.

As a long-distance cruiser it makes sense. Even on 19in alloy wheels, it deals with road imperfections well, and there isn't much road or wind noise. Seats are impressively

comfortable – soft and supportive.

Nissan has worked hard to make the interior appealing with Tekna+ having plush quilted leather seats, a premium Bose stereo system and smart gloss black panelling around the infotainment system. However,



some surfaces remind you it isn't quite a premium crossover.

As for interior space, it easily meets the needs of most families. There's more than enough room in the back for three children, or two taller adults can ride in comfort.

## Nissan Qashqai

Price: **from £19,295**

Engine tested: **1.5-litre, 110PS, four-cylinder turbo diesel**

Performance: **0-62mph 11.9 seconds; top speed 113mph**

MPG: **74.3 combined**

CO2 emissions: **99g/km**

Boot space is 430 litres and 1,598 litres with the rear seats folded.

Tekna+ offers plenty of kit, including electrically-adjustable driver's seat and a panoramic glass roof, but starts at £27,830.

Most customers will opt for mid-range N-Connecta, from £23,805, which includes seven-inch touchscreen with satellite navigation, 18in alloys, intelligent emergency braking and lane departure warning.

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Interview Date – TBC

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- Registered Nurse 1st level
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- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
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- Committed to providing a quality clinical service

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Full Time 37.5 hrs per week

Salary – Dependent upon experience

Closing Date – Ongoing

Interview Date – TBC

#### Qualifications and Experience

- Registered Nurse 1st level
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a multi-disciplinary team
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## Estate Planning Consultant

Role: Estate Planning Consultant

Location: Kent area

Salary: Basic Salary + Un-capped Commission  
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Heritage Will Writers are looking for a highly motivated individual with strong client focus to join our team based in the Kent area as an Estate Planning Consultant. The individual should be driven by a natural and honest quest to seek the best advice for our clients; this will require the applicant to develop their knowledge of the industry through continuous learning. The right applicant will be the face of the company and be based in the Kent area. You will be passionate about our company values and strive to ensure our clients future is safe guarded.

The successful candidate for the role of Estate Planning Consultant will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Visiting new clients and existing clients in their homes, place of work or in the Heritage Offices advising them on estate planning solutions.
- Taking detailed instruction of Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Trusts.
- Build and maintain strong working relationships with new and existing clients.

- Continuous training and development to ensure advice is relevant at all times.

In order to be considered for the role of Estate Planning Consultant you will have gained the following skills and experience:

- GCSE English & Math
- A-Levels (Desirable)
- University Degree (Desirable)
- Some commercial experience working in sales would be highly desirable
- The applicant will have a keen eye for detail, be a great listener and be passionate about the legal industry. Experience within the legal field is desirable, however not a necessity.
- Driving License and access to your own vehicle is essential
- Motivation, client focused and eager to learn are the key attributes for this role.
- Due to the nature of the job you will be looking at problems and formulating the best solution for the client, for that reason, evidence of problem solving and solution planning is advantageous.

In return you will benefit from working for a growing company in a role offering a competitive OTE and the opportunity to grow and develop in your career.

To apply for the role of Estate Planning Consultant please send an up to date cv to:  
[ocann@heritagewills.co.uk](mailto:ocann@heritagewills.co.uk)

# Vacancies

## Exhibition Stand Representative

Location: Kent area (mobile based role)

Hourly Rate: £7.50 p/h Plus Commission and Mileage

Position type: Part- time  
(Thursday and Friday – 12 hour p/w contract)

Heritage Legal and Financial were established in 2001 and we have become East Anglia and the South East's leading dedicated Will writing service, serving tens of thousands of clients. As a result of company growth we currently have openings for an Exhibition Stand Representative to join our team and be based in the Norfolk area or around Harlow, Huntingdon, or Cambridge locality. You will plan and carry out sales activities on assigned areas. You will be responsible for informing of and displaying products to customers and managing service expectations, quality of product and service delivery in a face to face environment.

The successful candidate for the role of Exhibition Stand Representative will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Generate and partially qualify leads whilst presenting a positive impression of Heritage

- Set up and collapse an Exhibition Stand
- Source and develop client referrals from face to face contact
- Ensure that you are available for all scheduled and planned Exhibition Stand events
- Assist in the development and maintain sales and promotional materials across all exhibition stands
- Attend and assist with all events that require an exhibition stand i.e County fairs and local events
- Develop and make presentations of company products and services to current and potential clients
- Maintain customer activity records and transfer these onto a bespoke database
- Ensure customer service satisfaction and good client relationships
- Monitor and report on engagement activities and follow up for management.

In return you will benefit from working for a growing company in a role offering part-time working hours and the opportunity to develop your skills and earn uncapped commission.

To apply for the role of Exhibition Stand Representative please send an up to date cv to:  
[atooth@heritagewills.co.uk](mailto:atooth@heritagewills.co.uk)

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### HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

#### STOPPING UP OF LAND AT BELL FARM, CHURCH ROAD, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates' sitting at Medway Magistrates' Court on 27/11/2017 at 10:00 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Bell Farm, Church Road, Harrietsham, Maidstone as edged red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform Carissa Humphreys by post to Invicta Law Limited, Priory Gate, 29 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1PT, by email [highwaydefinitionsearches@kent.gov.uk](mailto:highwaydefinitionsearches@kent.gov.uk), or by telephone 03000 416285 before 20 November 2017 quoting reference number CHU/PH/KEN002:000006.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Carissa Humphreys using the contact details shown above.



#### M20 MOTORWAY (NEAR MAIDSTONE) TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Notice is hereby given that Highways England Company Limited intends to make an Order on the M20 Motorway in the County of Kent, under Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 because works are proposed to be executed on the road.

The effect of the Order would be to:-

1. authorise the overnight closure of -
  - a) the coast-bound distributor road of the M20 between the exit slip road (to the A229 roundabout) and the merge with the coast-bound M20 at Junction 6 (A229); and
  - b) the slip road leading to the coast-bound distributor road of the M20 at Junction 6 (A229);
2. impose an overnight 50 mph speed limit on -
  - a) the coast-bound carriageway of the M20 between a point 470 metres west and 1350 metres east of the M20 Junction 6 (A229) overbridge;
  - b) the coast-bound distributor road of the M20 between the entry slip road at Junction 5 (A20) and the exit slip road at Junction 6 (A229); and
  - c) the slip road leading from the coast-bound distributor road at Junction 6 (A229); and
3. permit, during overnight works, and as advised by traffic signs, HGVs to use the outside lane in the length of carriageway described in 2 a). above.

These measures would be in the interests of road safety while contractors undertake speed camera maintenance and all associated works.

It is expected that the work would last for approximately 1 night starting on or after Tuesday 14th November 2017. The overnight closures would take place between 22:00 and 05:00 (maximum period).

The Order would come into force on 12 November 2017 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

Traffic affected by the closures would be diverted using Cobtree Roundabout, A229 to Running Horse Roundabout, then M20 westbound to Junction 4 (A228) and return.

The temporary closures and diversion routes would be clearly indicated by traffic signs when they are in operation during the works period.

M Taylor, an Official of Highways England Co Ltd.  
Ref: HE/SE/2017/M20/194

Highways England Company Limited,  
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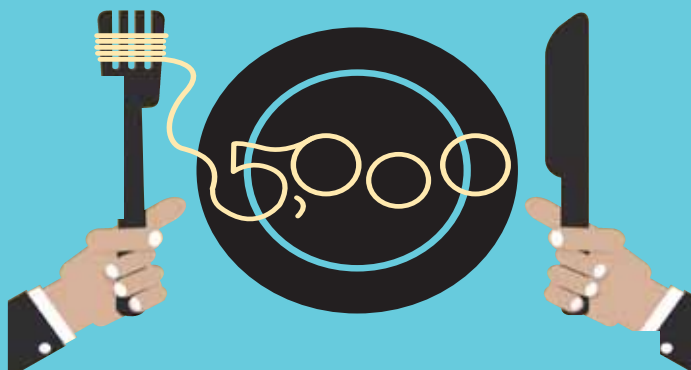
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# Billings commits future to county

Kent's wicketkeeper-batsman also appointed vice-captain

## Cricket

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

ENGLAND wicketkeeper-batsman Sam Billings has signed a contract extension to stay at the club - quashing speculation he could be on his way to a rival county side.

The 26-year-old Kent Cricket Academy graduate has also been appointed the club's vice-captain from the 2018 season.

He had been linked with a possible move to Nottinghamshire in time for next season.

Billings has represented England 26 times in white-ball cricket and captained Kent for the first time this summer in a tour match against the West Indies.

The Pembury-born right-hander said: "I've been at the club since I was eight. My family are Kent through and through so it means a lot to play for my home county."

"I've still got a lot to prove, particularly in red-ball cricket but I've averaged 44 over the last two seasons in first class cricket so I feel my game is progressing year-on-year."

"I know the Kent supporters would like to see me play a full season of county cricket but these opportunities overseas don't come around too often and they improve me as a cricketer."

"Pressure situations like the T20 win against Surrey at The Oval are easier because of my experience in the IPL and overseas tournaments so it can only help Kent and hopefully England in the long run."

"We have several guys in the squad



**STAYING:** Sam Billings signed a contract extension this week

Pictures: ADY KERRY

capable of playing international cricket which is a promising sign and we all just need to play well more consistently."

"I'm a senior player now and enjoyed the experience of captaining the side and helping the younger or less experienced guys where I can."

Head coach Matt Walker said: "It's been great to see Sam's development

as a cricketer and a person over the last few years."

"Sam's now a senior player in our dressing-room and his experiences overseas have helped his game. I'm excited to see him continue his development as a Kent player."

Billings is closing in on the club record for T20 catches, two short of the 46 taken by Geraint Jones.

## Hopkins catches the eye on new Yamaha bike

## Motorsport

SITTINGBOURNE'S Luke Hopkins got off to a flying start on his new bike at the weekend, as he competed in the main class of the Bemsee 600 series.

The 15-year-old had outgrown his Kawasaki Ninja, and instead raced on a Yamaha 6 in Snetterton.

Starting the weekend off in the rookie class, Luke initially qualified third in the 600cc/100cc combined race.

But when the race came, the young speedster pulled ahead of the pack, and with a fastest lap time of 2:03.182, Hopkins finished first, 1.9 seconds ahead of second place.

The fine performance caught organisers' eyes, and soon he was put at the back for race two, amongst the



**STAR:** Photo by Hilary Hardy

experienced MRO 600 class.

The track was damp for race two and riders were out on wet tyres.

Although he started from 22nd on the combined MRO 600 and clubman 600 grid Hopkins was undaunted by the task. He crossed the finish line 13th overall and 9th in his class.

On Sunday, he managed to finish 6th in a close battle and then started in the middle of row two for the final race, but suffered a difficult start, dropping to tenth on the first lap.

After falling to 11th the lap after Luke began to make his recovery. He made up two places on lap three and by the end of the race crossed the line to finish 8th in the MRO 600 class.

After the weekend, the teenage speedster said: "My win in the first race surprised everyone so the organisers asked if I would move into the main 600 class. It was great because I got to ride and learn from some really experienced 600 racers."

## Sport Shorts

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## Teenage Paralympian nominated for award

A CELEBRATION of the year's finest British sportswomen will feature a ground-breaking Paralympian from Canterbury.

Millie Knight appeared at the 2014 Sochi Winter Paralympics aged just 15, finishing fifth in the para-skiing competition.

This year the 18-year-old won Team GB's first ever world title at the world Para Alpine Skiing Championships, winning gold in the downhill competition and two more silver medals in the giant slalom and combined events.

The former King's School student's fantastic year has seen her shortlisted for the young sportswoman of the year category at the Sunday Times Sportswomen of the Year awards alongside Dover-born cricketer Tammy Beaumont, who has been nominated for the overall sportswoman of the year prize.

Eleanor Mills, editorial director for the weekly newspaper said: "We congratulate all this year's finalists and we look forward to celebrating their achievements."



**PROSPECT:** Millie Knight



**HOME:** Kent's Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence

## Service to remember players killed in war

A SPECIAL ceremony will take place next month to re-dedicate the Colin Blythe Memorial at the home of Kent cricket in Canterbury.

The Kent and England spinner was killed 100 years ago in Ypres after volunteering to fight in the First World War.

Work has started to restore the memorial and hold a special service on the anniversary of his death - November 8.

The memorial also remembers the other Kent players killed during the Great War.

A stonemason is restoring much of the stone work to better condition and replacing the base.

A number of amendments are required, including adding missing names, correcting initials, adjusting dates and including military decorations.

## Taylor departs Priestfield again

PETER Taylor has left Gillingham less than six months after returning to the club as director of football.

Taylor, who had two spells as Gills boss earlier in his career, took over as caretaker manager following the departure of Ady Pennock by mutual consent last month.

However, the 64-year-old, who has overseen disappointing League One

results against Portsmouth and Blackburn Rovers over the past fortnight, has now decided there is no role for him at Priestfield going forward.

First-team coach Steve Lovell, assisted by the club's coaching staff, will take over in the Gills dugout until a permanent boss is appointed by chairman Paul Scally.

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